

IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT FAIRBANKS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Suspension of Fairbanks and Interior Jury
Trials and Grand Jury Through
11/30/2021

Presiding Judge's Administrative Order
21- 18C

**PRESIDING JUDGE'S ORDER SUSPENDING TRIAL AND GRAND JURY
AT FAIRBANKS AND INTERIOR VILLAGES¹**

As of the date of this order, the Alaska DHSS case rates for the Fairbanks Region are as follows: The average daily case rate for the last 14 days per 100,000 residents is 109.6. The total number of cases over the last 7 days per 100,000 is 794.6.² So far in October DHSS has recorded 6 COVID related deaths in Fairbanks.

The most recent hospital survey conducted by DHSS indicates 404 inpatient beds available across the state with 35 ICU beds available. The interior region currently has 9 ICU beds available. The 7-day test positivity rate for Fairbanks is at 17% with 2,917 tests given in the last week, or about 3% of the Borough population tested.³ Vaccination rates in the Greater Fairbanks area are around 49.5% fully vaccinated. Jury trials and Grand Jury in Fairbanks are currently scheduled to commence on October 25, 2021.

ORDER EXTENDING JURY TRIAL AND GRAND JURY SUSPENSION

The circumstances requiring the suspension of grand jury and jury trials as outlined and explained in Presiding Judge's Order 21-18 and as mandated by Chief Justice Order 8333⁴ continue to require the suspension of jury trials and Grand Jury as there is no alternative set of restrictions that will allow trials to be held in the Fairbanks or Interior Courthouses with an acceptable level of risk.

¹ "Interior Villages" includes Nenana, Delta Junction, Fort Yukon, Tok, and Galena.

² At the time of PJO 21-18B, the numbers were an average of 158.9 cases per 100,000 over 14 days and 1,472.8 per 100,000 cumulative over 7 days, which is a 46% drop in the 7-day cumulative case rate.

³ The number of individuals tested continues to drop in Fairbanks while the test positivity rate remains stable, meaning that some, but certainly not all, of the 46% drop in cases could be attributed a decrease in testing numbers.

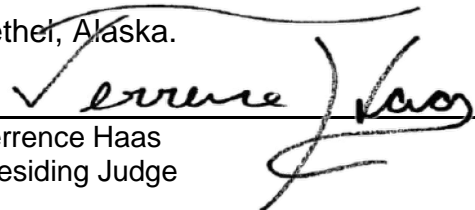
⁴ The CJ Order mandates suspension at 100 per 100,000 residents over 7 days which is still nearly 8 times less than the current number.

Jury trials are hereby suspended at Fairbanks and all interior villages through November 30, 2021. Rule 45 is hereby tolled for the period of this suspension.

Grand Jury is hereby suspended at Fairbanks through November 30, 2021. The calculation of the deadline for convening preliminary examination per Criminal Rule 5(e)(4) shall be tolled through December 31, 2021.

It is So ORDERED.

Dated this 17th Day of October, 2021 at Bethel, Alaska.


Terrence Haas
Presiding Judge

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