

Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial District  
**12<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT-  
AMENDED COVID-19  
PLAN/ORDER REGARDING  
JURY TRIALS (MASKS AND  
SOCIAL DISTANCING)**



**CHIEF JUDGE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
2020-08**

**Amended 10-20-2020  
Amended 11-10-2020  
Amended 01-01-2021  
Amended 02-09-2021  
Amended 03-18-2021  
Amended 08-27-2021**

This amended order modifies the Court's Administrative Order 2020-03, 2020-05 and 2020-06 as it relates to jury trials. Except as modified here, Administrative Order 2020-03, 2020-05 and 2020-06 remains in full force and effect.

### **JURY TRIAL PROCEDURES Masks and Social Distancing**

Once the jury is selected, jurors will be oriented to the protocol for accessing the bathroom, going outside, etc. They will be provided a writing utensil and an individual jury notebook/writing pad which will stay either in a designated place in the courtroom or with the juror during the trial. When the trial convenes, the jurors will sit at **three-foot distances** throughout the courtroom. The permissible locations to sit will be marked.

While there is currently not a district-wide mask order in place, jury trials require the gathering of a large group of people in one location which presents a more significant risks of exposure. As such, it is ordered that each presiding judge has the authority to mandate masks for all parties, including jurors, during all parts or select parts of jury proceedings.

The provisions of Administrative Order 2020-08 shall apply to all civil, D&N, and criminal jury trials held in the 12th Judicial District, and any judge requesting that any provision of the order be modified or waived for a specific trial shall seek approval of the Chief Judge.

I reserve the right to modify, revise, or vacate this order at any time to meet the health and safety needs of the public. This order is effective August 27, 2021.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

BY THE COURT

---

Michael A. Gonzales  
Chief Judge, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District