

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, GENERAL DIVISION  
MUNICIPAL COURT  
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

COPY OF ENTRY FILED  
JUL 30 2020

IN RE: JURY TRIALS UNDER EXIGENT : **M200001**  
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY :  
COVID-19 : **JOINT**  
: **ADMINISTRATIVE**  
: **ORDER**

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In response to the evolving public health emergency created by COVID-19 and the actions taken by national, state, and local officials, the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, General Division and the Hamilton County Municipal Court (the “Courts”) have implemented measures to mitigate the health risk to the public, Court staff, and all courthouse visitors during the pandemic. As we track this evolving health emergency, the Courts will continue to take necessary measures to comply with public health orders and guidelines.

New public health data led the Ohio Department of Health to designate more than a dozen counties as being in a “Red Alert Level 3 Public Emergency” as defined by the Ohio Public Health Advisory System. That system was created to provide local health departments, community leaders, and the public with data and information on the severity of the COVID-19 spread in each Ohio county. The system consists of four levels with specific risk-level guidelines. Each level is calculated with data gathered on seven public health indicators.

In addition to social distancing and wearing a face covering,<sup>1</sup> other guidelines for a Red Alert Level 3 are:

- (1) Decrease in-person interactions with others;
- (2) Consider necessary travel only; and
- (3) Limit attending gatherings of any number.

Red Alert Level 3 counties marked with a star (\*) are on Ohio's Watch List as they are approaching the highest risk level, Purple Alert Level 4 (stay at home/necessary travel only). Hamilton County was removed from Ohio's Watch List last week as local conditions have improved.

In light of the developments in local conditions, and having consulted with Hamilton County criminal justice stakeholders, the Courts will resume jury trials (petit

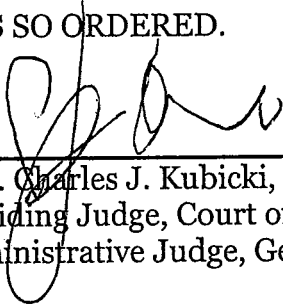
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<sup>1</sup> On July 22, 2020, Governor DeWine announced a mandatory face covering order that applies to all of Ohio's counties and is required for most Ohioans in indoor public settings, effective July 23, 2020.

jury service) on August 3, 2020, consistent with recommended public health emergency guidelines. The Courts will continue to monitor this fluid situation.

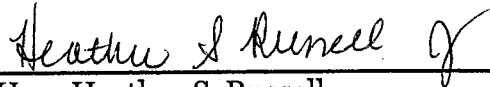
With regard to criminal matters, defendants who express health concerns about proceeding to trial will be permitted to continue their case and be required to waive time. If the court, state or witnesses express health concerns about proceeding to trial or if one of the specially adapted court rooms is not available, the judge may continue the case and consider whether time would be tolled pursuant to R.C. 2945.72(H), "Extension of Time for Hearing or Trial." Each case will be handled on a case-by-case basis. To the extent this Order conflicts with any of the Courts' previous COVID-19 related Administrative Orders, this Amended Joint Administrative Order supersedes.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



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Hon. Charles J. Kubicki, Jr.  
Presiding Judge, Court of Common Pleas  
Administrative Judge, General Division



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Hon. Heather S. Russell  
Presiding and Administrative Judge  
Municipal Court