

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN RE: EXTENSION OF
JUDICIAL EMERGENCY
THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021

:
:
:

No. A.D. 8-2021
Supreme Court Docket No. 44 MM 2020

CLERK OF COURTS
2021 FEB -2 PM 1:18
LANCASTER COUNTY, PA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

AND NOW, this 2nd day of February, 2021, upon consideration of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's May 27, 2020 Order specifically empowering President Judges to continue local declarations of emergency, and consistent with this Court's Orders of March 17, 2020, April 1, 2020, April 24, 2020, May 26, 2020, June 19, 2020, August 14, 2020, October 19, 2020, and December 4, 2020, it is hereby DECLARED that the Judicial Emergency in the Second Judicial District resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic is extended through **April 30, 2021**, or until further order of this Court, and, while the Courts will be open to conduct all judicial services, the Court facilities will remain closed to the general public not having business with Court and Court-related offices through April 30, 2021.

It is further ORDERED that:

1. This Court's Administrative Orders of December 11, 2020, A.D. No. 56-2020, and January 5, 2021, A.D. No. 3-2021, limiting public access to the Courts except for enumerated emergency proceedings and suspending time limitations for the initiation of any action or the filing of any pleading or document for all Court-related filing offices, shall expire on February 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Thereafter, this Court's prior Administrative Orders, not inconsistent with this Order, shall be in full force and effect,

and detailed protocols for the handling of matters in each division of the Court will be provided on the Court's website at <https://court.co.lancaster.pa.us/>.

2. Criminal jury trials may be scheduled at the discretion of each presiding judge beginning March 1, 2021, as facilities and resources permit, provided such trials can be conducted safely and consistent with prevailing health and safety norms. Criminal nonjury trials may be scheduled at any time at the discretion of each presiding judge.

3. Statewide rules pertaining to the rule-based right of criminal defendants to a prompt trial continue to be suspended. Any postponement caused by this Judicial Emergency shall be considered a Court delay and shall constitute excludable time for purposes of the application of Pa.R.Crim.P. No. 600.

4. Civil jury trials scheduled through February 28, 2021 are continued generally. Civil jury trial procedures beginning March 1, 2021 shall be addressed by a separate Administrative Order. Civil nonjury trials may be scheduled at the discretion of each presiding judge beginning February 15, 2021, as facilities and resources permit, provided they can be conducted safely and consistent with prevailing health and safety norms.

5. From February 15, 2021, through April 30, 2021, all Court business shall be conducted subject to protocols and procedures that limit, as much as possible, all in-person access and proceedings as reasonably modified by the presiding judge in the exercise of that judge's discretion provided all safety measures herein mentioned are employed. Statewide rules that restrict, directly or indirectly, the use of advanced communication technology are hereby suspended.

6. Proceedings requiring in-person appearances may be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge and shall be conducted in a manner that employs all safety measures consistent with the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) guidelines.

7. Court filings shall be made by means other than in-person delivery whenever possible. Statewide rules impeding court filings by means other than in-person delivery are hereby suspended.

8. Court users and the public are requested to conduct any business they have in the Courthouse by telephone, mail, email, or any other advanced communication technology whenever possible to avoid in-person contact with Courthouse personnel.

9. This Administrative Order applies only to those Courts, offices, and departments under the jurisdiction of the President Judge, and is not intended to prohibit access to other Court-related offices in the Lancaster County Courthouse by those members of the public who are unable to conduct their official business by means other than in person.

10. Individuals permitted access to **any Court facility** shall be required to maintain appropriate social distancing of at least six feet, to wear protective face masks or appropriate face coverings in public settings, to comply with all safety directives provided by the Court or County staff, and to adhere to the November 17, 2020 *Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings*.

11. For purposes of this Order, Rooms 102 and 104 of the Lancaster County Government Center at 150 North Queen Street, Lancaster, where jury trials will be held, are deemed Court facilities. All provisions regarding Court facilities contained in this and prior Administrative Orders shall apply to Rooms 102 and 104 of the Lancaster County Government Center.

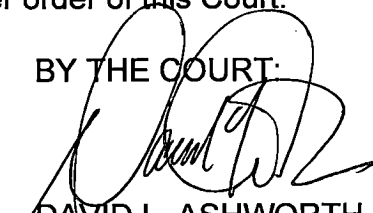
12. The Sheriff of Lancaster County, his deputies, and any other sworn law enforcement officers, including Constables and their deputies, assigned to the Courthouse and any Court facility shall assist in implementing this Order, and are authorized to deny admission to or to remove any person who is visibly ill or who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, provided they provide such person with information (telephone number or email address) to enable them to initiate, participate in, or complete necessary Court business/functions during this Judicial Emergency.

13. All coronavirus related safety precautions, protocols and requirements described in this Court's prior Administrative Orders will continue to remain valid and applicable to Lancaster County Court operations.

14. The purpose of this Order is to continue the gradual re-opening of the Court system in a safe, efficient manner while adhering to CDC and DOH guidelines to protect all Court personnel, Court users and the public.

15. This Administrative Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect through April 30, 2021, or until further order of this Court.

BY THE COURT:


DAVID L. ASHWORTH
PRESIDENT JUDGE

ATTEST:


deputy

Copies to: Lancaster County Board of Judges
Lancaster County Magisterial District Judges
Lancaster County District Court Administrator
Lancaster County Adult Probation & Parole Services
Lancaster County Children and Youth Social Service Agency
Lancaster County Clerk of Courts
Lancaster County Clerk of the Orphans' Court
Lancaster County District Attorney
Lancaster County Domestic Relations
Lancaster County Juvenile Probation
Lancaster County Law Library
Lancaster County Office of Official Court Reporter
Lancaster County Prison
Lancaster County Prothonotary
Lancaster County Public Defender
Lancaster County Register of Wills
Lancaster County Sheriff
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
Lancaster County Solicitor
Lancaster County Municipal Police Departments
Pennsylvania State Police