

NOTICE TO THE BAR

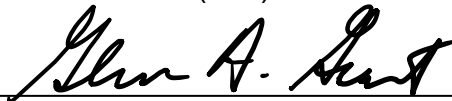
COVID-19 – EXTENSION OF POST-INDICTMENT EXCLUDABLE TIME; DELAY IN RESUMPTION OF IN-PERSON JURY TRIALS

The Supreme Court has extended the end-date for post-indictment excludable time for the additional period from May 18, 2021 through June 15, 2021. The Court's April 9, 2021 Order is attached.

As set forth in the Court's April 9, 2021 Order, current COVID-19 trends indicate that it is too soon to expand on-site presence and in-person events, including for purposes of in-person jury trials. Public health indicators – including the millions of COVID-19 vaccines administered statewide – instead suggest that the Judiciary should be positioned to resume in-person jury trials on or after June 15, 2021.

Jurors who have been summoned to report for service before June 15, 2021 will be assigned to panels for virtual civil jury trials. All counties will continue to summon jurors for upcoming reporting dates. Judges will adjust trial dates for in-person trials as necessary.

Questions about this notice or the Court's April 9, 2021 Order may be directed to the Office of the Administrative Director of the Courts at (609) 376-3000.



Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: April 9, 2021

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Supreme Court has authorized various adjustments to court operations as set forth most recently in the Court's [March 23, 2021](#) Eleventh Omnibus Order. The Court today is modifying two provisions of that Eleventh Omnibus Order.

The Judiciary is continuing to monitor COVID-19 trends in New Jersey, as well as New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) predictive models. NJ DOH is reporting an average of more than 3,000 new cases per day and rising hospitalizations. The rate of transmission remains above 1.0. NJ DOH predictive models suggest that COVID-19 trends may not improve for at least a few weeks.

At the same time, other indicators suggest that in-person court operations may soon be able to expand. NJ DOH reports administration of more than 5 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with roughly 2 million individuals being fully vaccinated. Deaths from COVID-19 are continuing to decrease.

Public health data does not support an immediate expansion of on-site presence or in-person court events. Rather, the Judiciary should continue planning for additional on-site presence and in-person options, including for jury trials and grand juries, while waiting to announce a start date for those important in-person events.

Today, the work of the courts is continuing at all levels in a primarily remote format. As appropriate, certain matters are being conducted in person with

necessary health precautions. The Judiciary will continue to operate in this blended format – primarily remote with some in-person options – until COVID-19 trends support the expansion of on-site presence and in-person court events.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED that effective immediately and until further order:

1. CRIMINAL

Paragraph 2(c) of the Court’s March 23, 2021 Eleventh Omnibus Order is modified as follows: in the calculation of the time period for the commencement of trial for an eligible defendant detained in the county jail, excludable time is extended for the additional period from May 18, 2021 through June 15, 2021 due to exceptional circumstances, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:162-22(b)(1)(f), and on account of good cause for the delay, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2A:162-22(b)(1)(l), namely the temporary suspension of criminal jury trials statewide, which period shall be attributable to the court.

2. JURY TRIALS

Paragraph 3 of the Court’s March 23, 2021 Eleventh Omnibus Order is modified as follows:

- a. Virtual civil jury trials will continue in accordance with the Court’s [January 7, 2021](#) and [February 1, 2021](#) Orders;

- b. For jury selections starting on or after June 15, 2021, counties will continue to use modified summons documents that inform prospective jurors (1) that the jury selection process will begin in a virtual format; and (2) that their service may continue virtually or may involve reporting in person to a courthouse with safety precautions; and
 - c. Jurors who have been summoned to report for service between May 17, 2021 and June 14, 2021 will be assigned to panels for virtual civil jury trials. Jurors summoned to report for service on or after June 15, 2021 may serve virtually or may report in person to a courthouse for hybrid jury trials.
3. All other provisions of the Court's March 23, 2021 Eleventh Omnibus Order remain in full force and effect.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: April 9, 2021