



**SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF
COLORADO ADAMS AND BROOMFIELD COUNTIES**

**ADDENDUM TO NINTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS UNDER COVID-19 EFFECTIVE
NOVEMBER 23, 2020 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND ORDER**

Issued May 14, 2021

ADDENDUM to 2020-01 A9

As of Friday, Adams County still had a COVID positivity rate over 8% and Broomfield has a positivity rate of approximately 5%. In light of the public health risks still posed by the COVID-19 (“novel coronavirus”) and the advisories and information circulated by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), which still recommend active steps to slow the spread of the disease and precautions to reduce the risk of exposure (such as continuing to wear masks and maintain a level of social distancing while indoors). The 17th Judicial District Courts and Probation Department will continue to operate with these health precautions in mind. As of May 16, 2021, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is no longer issuing public health directives and defers to local government to make such decisions.

The courthouse is different from other public and private buildings. First, we order people to be at the courthouse. That includes potential jurors, victims and witnesses, law enforcement officers, litigants and defendants in criminal cases. Second, we order these individuals to be in specific rooms with other people and to remain in these rooms until released by the court. In other government buildings or private businesses, people choose whether to enter or leave a building or a room at their discretion. Third, due to the length of the pandemic, we have a very large backlog of trials and there are statutory requirements which dictate that criminal trials need to be held within specified time periods. These different circumstances require the courthouse to continue to follow procedures to protect the health of the public, victims and witnesses, court staff, law enforcement officers, and the counsel we order to attend court proceedings.

The Court has issued prior administrative orders following the advice of the Tri County Health Department, CDHP and the National Center for Disease Control. The

CDPHE prepares statewide tables of two-week cumulative incidence rates and current epidemic curve. These tables are updated daily and can be viewed through the CDPHE website at <https://covid19.colorado.gov/data>. Adams County currently has a two-week cumulative incidence rate of 395.6/100,000. The Adams County's two-week average positivity rate is 8.1% which is now consistent with the surrounding counties. Broomfield County has a two-week cumulative incidence rate of 70.7/100,000 and a two-week average positivity rate of 5%.

Like TCH and the CDC, leadership in the 17th Judicial District, including judicial officers, executives, administration and supervisors, are committed to swift actions and targeted strategies to fight COVID-19. Thus, we continue to take voluntary mitigating steps for the health and safety of the public and the staff that we order and enter and remain in the courthouse. We will continue to comply with the recommendations of TCH and the CDC, and we will take additional extra precautions when our individual circumstances require them. Under our current circumstances, we continue to take the following steps for the health and safety of the public, the litigants and staff, that we order to be in the courthouse:

This ADDENDUM modifies the prior Amended Administrative Orders as follows:

1. Jury trials will continue be held and expanded as circumstances, including the infection rate, allow.
2. The Adams County and Broomfield County Clerks' Offices will have expanded hours starting June 1, 2021.
3. The Adams County Justice Center, the Broomfield County Courts and Probation will return to their pre-COVID hours of operation on June 1, 2021. The ACJC courthouse Probation Office re-opened for normal business on May 10, 2021.
4. The First Appearance Center at the ACJC will remain closed to the public and Division R cases will continue to be heard virtually via Webex until further notice.
5. The courts will continue to operate with primarily virtual dockets until further notice.
6. The courts will continue to strive to keep all divisions open, to conduct all required court business and to assist the judicial officers with their virtual dockets.

The Court is ordering that the following mandatory health requirements continues:

- WEAR MASKS IN THE COURTHOUSE AND COURTYARD
- MAINTAIN 6 FT DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH OTHER WHILE

INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE OR COURTYARD (WHEN POSSIBLE)

The 17th JD is committed to avoiding foreseeable health risks and invites all Visitors to:

- WASH HANDS REGULARLY OR USE HAND SANITIZER FREQUENTLY
- REGULARLY SANITIZE HIGH TOUCH SURFACES LIKE CELL PHONES, KEYBOARDS MICE AND HEADSETS
- STAY HOME WITH ANY COVID-19 SYMPTOMS AND ISOLATE WHEN SICK OR COVID-19 POSITIVE
- GET TESTED AT THE ONSET OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR NOTIFIED OF CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE POSITIVE
- WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD RESILIENCE AND MANAGE JOB STRESS
- CONTINUE TO USE VIRTUAL AND TELEPHONE HEARINGS AS THE PREFERRED METHOD WHENEVER POSSIBLE

SO ORDERED this 17th day of May, 2021.

By the COURT,



Don Quick

Chief Judge

17th Judicial District