

adjudication of legal matters and protection of the rights of litigants and the public; and

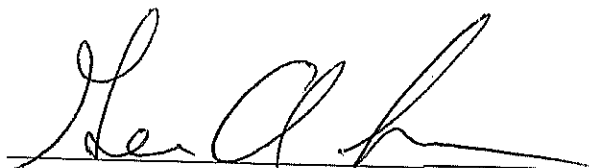
WHEREAS, in furtherance of the foregoing and, based upon all information available, the undersigned finds the following:

1. The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is easily transmitted, especially in indoor group settings.
2. There is increasing evidence that aerosol transmission is a primary cause and/or contributor to spread of the virus by asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons, especially in congregate settings in enclosed indoor spaces.
3. The Southwest District Health "COVID-19 Health Alert Levels" Tool for September 2, 2020 (reflecting data from August 16, 2020 – August 29, 2020), shows Canyon and Payette counties as "High Risk" (">5 daily new cases per 10,000 people (or) other indications of high risk to the community") and Gem, Owyhee, and Washington counties as "Medium Risk" ("2.5-5 daily new cases per 10,000 people (or) other indications of medium risk to the community") and such counties have been at High or Medium risk levels for a significant period of time. Pursuant to Southwest District Health guidelines "[a]t least two full weeks will be spent in a Health Alert Level before determinations to move to a lower less severe level (e.g. from High to Medium)."
4. Based upon recent past experience, activity over the upcoming Labor Day holiday and the reopening of schools in the counties of the Third Judicial District may cause an increase in case rates and risk levels in the district.
5. It appears that expected jury yields for September are less than optimal for the resumption of jury trials, especially in Canyon County and, due to circumstances beyond our control, Gem County is unable, at this time, to assemble a proper master jury list.
6. The counties and courts in the Third Judicial District continue to work together in modifying facilities, securing sufficient PPE to protect persons doing court business in such facilities, and providing sufficient personnel to attend to persons entering court facilities. However, more time is required to identify and implement elevated precautions to protect jurors, who are summoned to appear in court, and to alleviate concerns among jurors chosen to serve on trials in order to render fair and impartial verdicts without the hindrance of undue concern for their health and safety.
7. It appears that the conduct of trials in the counties of the Third Judicial District under present circumstances would pose an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of jurors, court employees, parties, counsel and others who work in and with the courts of the Third Judicial District, even with the most careful planning.

Based on the foregoing and in the exercise of my discretion as Administrative District Judge for the Third Judicial District, it is,

ORDERED that no trial juror shall be required to appear in person and no criminal jury trial shall commence in a criminal case in Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington counties before October 19, 2020, subject to any subsequent order of the undersigned or superseding order of the Idaho Supreme Court.

Dated this 4 day of September, 2020



George A. Southworth
Administrative District Judge
Third Judicial District

Cc: Sara Omundson, Administrative Director of the Courts
District Judges of the Third Judicial District
Magistrate Judges of the Third Judicial District
District Court Clerks of the Third Judicial District
Jury Commissioners of the Third Judicial District