

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



In re: Administrative Orders of the U. S. District Court Case No. 3:40-mc-0011

SPECIAL ORDER # 12

Since the Coronavirus pandemic began, this Court has entered 11 special orders to curtail the virus's spread and protect its staff and all individuals who might be required to visit one of the district's four courthouses. The most recent order, Special Order No. 11, recognized a rise in COVID-19 cases in Mississippi and was therefore more restrictive than the order it replaced. Unfortunately, conditions continued to deteriorate after Special Order No. 11 was entered. The seven-day averages for new cases and deaths in Mississippi have more than doubled in that time; the Court has experienced additional cases of COVID-19 in all four courthouses; one of the district's primary holding facilities suffered an outbreak requiring it to quarantine all detainees; and the virus has prevented the grand jury from obtaining a quorum. Moreover, healthcare experts predict that the numbers will continue to rise for the next several weeks.

Accordingly, the Court will extend Special Order No. 11 until further notice. All civil jury trials and non-essential criminal jury trials are stayed. This does not affect any other deadlines in those cases unless the presiding judge determines otherwise. All other proceedings may proceed at the direction of the presiding judge. The Court will continue monitoring the numbers each day and will resume jury trials when it can safely do so.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Special Order No. 11 is extended until further notice.

SO ORDERED this the 7th day of January 2021.

Daniel P. Jordan III
DANIEL P. JORDAN III
CHIEF U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE