

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2020-9

PANDEMIC RELATED CURTAILED OPERATIONS

**AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

The Court's previous PANDEMIC RELATED CURTAILED OPERATIONS Administrative Orders are hereby superseded. This Order shall govern Court operations until further Order or until rescinded.

1. Extension of CARES Act Authorization

The undersigned, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana, has reviewed the CARES Act authorization of the use of video and telephone conferencing set forth in Section 15002(b)(1) of the Act. The undersigned Chief Judge finds that for reasons of health and safety during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the Court's Order authorizing proceedings to be conducted by video conference or telephone conference is hereby extended for an additional 90 days or until further Order of this Court under the authority of CARES Act § 15002(b)(3)(A).

The public may be permitted to access via audio (listen only mode), to the fullest extent possible considering technological restraints, video or telephonic hearings by submitting a request to the chambers of the presiding judge. Contact information for District Court is available at <http://www.lamd.uscourts.gov/directories>. Members of the public and the media are strictly prohibited from recording or broadcasting any hearing, in whole or in part, in any fashion. Violation of these prohibitions may result in sanctions,

including removal of court issued media credentials, restricted entry to future hearings, denial of entry to future hearings, or any other sanctions deemed necessary by the Court.

## 2. Court Operations

All civil and criminal trials (bench and jury) may be resumed. All scheduling is within the sound discretion of the presiding Judge.

All in-court civil evidentiary hearings and other in-court hearings and proceedings requiring personal appearances, on the dockets of the United States District Court and the United States Bankruptcy Court, may be resumed. All scheduling is within the sound discretion of the presiding Judge.

In-court re-arraignments and sentencing hearings may be resumed. All scheduling is within the sound discretion of the presiding Judge.

The authority to resume trials, hearings and other in-court proceedings does not in any way limit the discretion of the presiding Judge to conduct all or part of any proceedings by video conference or telephone conference as previously authorized by the Court and by the CARES Act and which authority is herein extended.

Grand Jury proceedings may be resumed with observance of the Court's COVID-19 protocols, including staggered building entrance times, mandatory mask wearing, and observation of social distancing.

Court Unit Executives shall make operational decisions regarding the means and manner of the operations of their respective units, including but not limited to employee telework.


All employees and persons having business in the Russell B. Long Courthouse and Federal Building shall be required to wear masks when in any public space in the buildings, shall observe social distancing, and shall observe all posted signs and

placards.

This Order supersedes all previously issued Pandemic related Orders and shall remain in effect until further Order of this Court.

**SO ORDERED** on September 30, 2020

**FOR THE COURT:**

  
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SHELLY D. DICK, CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA