

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS : STANDING ORDER 2020-30-1  
UNDER THE EXIGENT : (Supplement)  
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED :  
BY COVID-19 :

STANDING ORDER SUPPLEMENT

WHEREAS, this Order supplements and clarifies Standing Order 2020-30, issued on November 30, 2020, which ordered that the Middle District of Pennsylvania re-enter Phase One of the COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines adopted by this Court under Standing Order 2020-17.

Accordingly, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** that under Phase One of the Middle District of Pennsylvania's Recovery Guidelines:

1. The Court shall limit conducting in-person proceedings, and, specifically, shall categorically prohibit the following Court proceedings: civil or criminal trials; in-person settlement or mediation conferences; petty offense docket proceedings; and in-person C.A.R.E. proceedings.
2. Court staff shall strictly observe CDC-compliant cleaning procedures throughout the courthouses, which will include cleanings between any and all permitted in-court proceedings.
3. Anyone in the courthouses shall strictly observe social distancing guidelines, use face masks, and engage in best hygiene practices.

4. The Court shall give Court staff maximum flexibility to telework. Each individual judicial officer shall have discretion for staffing their Chambers, subject to restrictions for high-risk or vulnerable individuals as defined in the Recovery Guidelines.

5. The Court shall continue to implement Human Resources protocols for COVID-19 reporting, monitoring, contact tracing, and counseling through COVID-19 Human Resources Specialist Debbie Skopek, who can be reached at the following dedicated phone number: (570) 207-5716 and email address: [pamd\\_covid@pamd.uscourts.gov](mailto:pamd_covid@pamd.uscourts.gov).

s/ John E. Jones III  
John E. Jones III, Chief Judge  
United States District Court  
Middle District of Pennsylvania