

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

**IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS UNDER :
THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES :
CREATED BY COVID-19 : STANDING ORDER 2020-34**

STANDING ORDER

And now, this 29th day of December, 2020, it is hereby **ORDERED** that the suspension of jury trials set forth in Standing Order 2020-29 is extended until February 1, 2021. All jury selections and trials affected by this Order will be reset by further Order of the assigned judicial officer. The time-period of the date of this Order through February 1, 2021 shall be “excluded time” under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), the Court specifically finding and concluding that the ends of justice served by taking such actions and by such delay materially outweigh the best interests of the public and the defendants in a speedy trial in all such pending criminal cases, because, at least, the health and safety circumstances caused by COVID-19 make it necessarily and equally highly unlikely that a jury can be empaneled in any criminal cases under the current public health circumstances and under the applicable directives and orders of relevant local, state and federal health and governmental authorities. Specifically, the Court further finds and concludes that such exclusion is necessary in all cases to assure that as to cases going to trial, a full, unhindered, continuously serving jury venire and seated jury in every case, which is central to the sound administration of justice, is available. Such exclusion of time is further and also necessary in cases not yet set for trial, and in those cases previously set for trial but continued by this or other Order, in order to address the current actual, and reasonably anticipated future, profound difficulties or impossibility in defense counsel quickly and effectively communicating with or visiting with detained clients for the purposes of trial

preparation and consultation between client and counsel, along with the inherent delay in the scheduling and rescheduling of criminal trials as a consequence of the exclusion period herein and as contained in prior Orders of this Court. The Court may by further Order extend or modify the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant, and the assigned judicial officer may by Order also do so relative to any specific proceeding.

BY THE COURT:

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