

FILED
Clerk
District Court

MAR 16 2020

for the Northern Mariana Islands
By _____
(Deputy Clerk)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS IN
RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) OUTBREAK

GENERAL ORDER No. 20-00002

Recognizing that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to help stop the spread of the virus; and that the President of United States has declared a national public health emergency, the Court issues this order limiting access to the courthouse and reducing operations for the time period stated herein. In issuing this order, the Court has weighed the right of public access to the court against the need to protect the health and safety of the public.

I. Criteria for Exclusion from Courthouse

Until there has been a determination that these restrictions are no longer necessary, Court Security will deny entry into the courthouse:

- If you have traveled outside the CNMI within the last 14 days;
- Or if you have had close contact with someone who has traveled outside of the CNMI within the last 14 days;
- Or if you've been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;

- Or if you've been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Or if you have had a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath or flu symptoms within the last 72 hours.

Notice of these entry protocols will be posted at the entrance door of the courthouse.

Individuals prevented from entering the building will be provided contact information for the Court and all tenants of the courthouse so that they may attempt to conduct their business by phone or other remote means.

II. Limited Court Proceedings

Until April 26, 2020,

1. All scheduled civil and criminal jury selections and jury trials are continued pending further order of the Court.
2. All grand jury proceedings are continued unless otherwise ordered by the Chief Judge. However, the U.S. Attorney may request to schedule grand jury proceedings for emergency or essential matters.
3. The schedule for all other civil and criminal hearings will be determined on a case by case basis by the presiding judge in the matter.
4. Due to the Court's reduced ability to empanel jurors during this public health response, the time period of the continuances implemented by this order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A). The Court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering these continuances outweigh the best interest of the public and each defendant's right to speedy indictment or trial. The Court may extend the period of exclusion as circumstances may warrant.
5. All naturalization ceremonies, attorney admissions and other non-case related proceedings are postponed.

6. Criminal matters, such as initial appearances, arraignments and detention hearings will continue as scheduled without restriction.

III. Limited Clerk's Office Operations

Until April 26, 2020, the Clerk's Office will be open to the public for limited hours with reduced staffing on Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., except legal holidays, beginning March 17, 2020. Business with the Clerk's Office should be conducted by telephone and email to the extent possible. Unless pre-payment is required, such as for new cases and petitions, any document that cannot be submitted by CM/ECF should be emailed to qcclerks@nmid.uscourts.gov. All requests for court documents, including summons, subpoenas and federal records clearances, should be made by email to qcclerks@nmid.uscourts.gov. Payments should be submitted by mail with postmarks indicating date of submission, but do not mail cash. Checks or money orders must be made out to "Clerk, U.S. District Court" and mailed to P.O. Box 500687, Saipan, MP 96950. The CM/ECF electronic filing system is unaffected by this order and will remain online. For this reason, the Clerk's office will be operating by telework on Monday through Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SO ORDERED this 16th day of March 2020.



RAMONA V. MANGLONA
Chief Judge