

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE**

IN RE:)	
)	SO-21-01
)	
JURY TRIALS CONTINUED THROUGH)	Chief District Judge
FEBRUARY 28, 2021 DUE TO EXIGENT)	Travis R. McDonough
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY)	
COVID-19 PANDEMIC)	

STANDING ORDER

This Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of COVID-19 and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, because key indicators—including positivity rates, hospitalization rates, and cumulative positive cases—demonstrate a significant increase in the rate of COVID-19 in all divisions of the Eastern District of Tennessee, it is hereby ORDERED that the continuance in Standing Order 20-21 is EXTENDED through February 28, 2021.

Accordingly, civil and criminal jury trials scheduled to commence through February 28, 2021 before any district or magistrate judge in any division of the Eastern District of Tennessee are CONTINUED. Unless the Court extends this district-wide continuance, limited criminal and civil jury trials may begin after March 1, 2021 in the discretion of the presiding judge.

Additionally, because of the Court’s reduced ability to obtain an adequate spectrum of jurors and the risks posed to the jurors and the public due to the increased prevalence of COVID-19 in all divisions, the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant’s right to a speedy trial

during the relevant period. Accordingly, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), the time period of the continuances implemented by this Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act. Should any speedy-trial motion or challenge associated with the findings in this district-wide order be filed in any individual case, the presiding judge is encouraged to make any necessary case-specific findings in the record of such case.

SO ORDERED.



**TRAVIS R. MCDONOUGH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**