

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: 32<sup>nd</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT : PA SUPREME COURT NO. 30 MM 2020  
: :  
*Judicial Emergency* : :  
*Declaration Extension*<sup>1</sup> : DELAWARE COUNTY NO. 5120-17

**SEVENTH ORDER EXTENDING THE THIRTY- SECOND (32<sup>ND</sup>) JUDICIAL DISTRICT'S PAST DECLARED EMERGENCY**

AND NOW, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2021, this court having previously declared in the thirty-second (32<sup>nd</sup>) judicial district (Delaware County) a judicial emergency<sup>2</sup> and subsequently extended that emergent declaration<sup>3</sup> pursuant to such orders of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court sanctioning the same,<sup>4</sup> as well as Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(1)(2), and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania by its orders of April 28, 2020, and May 27, 2020,<sup>5</sup> having authorized the judicial districts' president judges as believed appropriate grounded on local conditions to extend past pronounced judicial emergencies within a court district,<sup>6</sup> it is hereby **ORDERED** and **DECREED** that the thirty-second (32<sup>nd</sup>) judicial district (Delaware County) remains in a continuing state of judicial emergency because of the yet ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.<sup>7</sup>

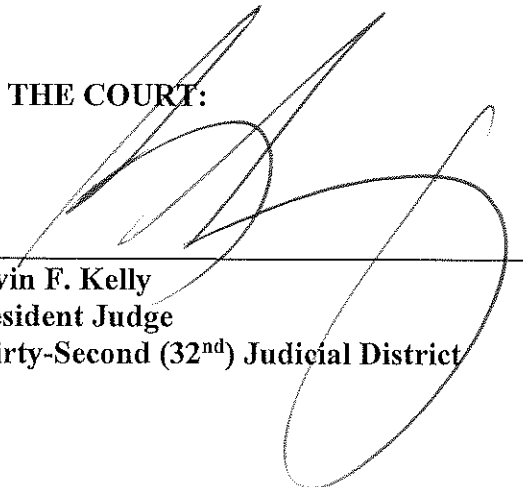
This seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) extension of the prior judicial emergency declaration<sup>8</sup> **SHALL** become **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY** on the same being filed electronically with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Prothonotary Office and **SHALL** continue through and including **OCTOBER 1, 2021**, with this court then yet having those authorities detailed under Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(2)(a-s) unless amended, rescinded, modified and/or superseded by a subsequent order of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.<sup>9</sup>

This court acting under its original emergency declaration, as well as its extensions of the same,<sup>10</sup> and those attendant authorities per Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(2)(a-s), previously entered a series of emergent orders, the most recent of which by their plain terms still remain in effect through April 30, 2021,<sup>11</sup> unless as presently anticipated such are extended and/or amended allowing for some appropriately measured incremental increase of court operations consistent with the instant order recognizing the COVID-19 driven judicial emergency continuing until at least October 1, 2021.

That directed above as subsequent material circumstances warrant and/or it otherwise believes appropriate may be revisited by this court and modified to meet the evolving concerns presented by the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.<sup>12</sup>

To the extent possible and practical under the salient circumstances, notice of this order has been and/or will promptly be posted about the Delaware County courthouse, including but not limited to the complex's entry doors, the Delaware County Office of Judicial Support, the Court Administrator's Office of Delaware County, the Criminal Court Administrator's Office, the court's website, all magisterial district court facilities within Delaware County, the Delaware County Bar Association's website, and submitted to the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts ("AOPC") for posting on the Commonwealth's Unified Judicial System's website per Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(C)(5).<sup>13</sup>

**BY THE COURT:**



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**Kevin F. Kelly**  
**President Judge**  
**Thirty-Second (32<sup>nd</sup>) Judicial District**

<sup>1</sup> See Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(1)(2). See also Orders dated March 16, 2020, pp. 1-2; March 18, 2020, pp. 1-3; March 24, 2020; April 1, 2020, pp. 1-3; April 28, 2020, pp. 2-5; and May 27, 2020, pp. 1-3 – Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nos. 531 and 532, Judicial Administration Docket; Emergency Declaration dated March 17, 2020; Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 2, 2020; Second Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 28, 2020; Third Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated May 27, 2020; Fourth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated July 8, 2020; Fifth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated October 20, 2020; and Sixth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated January 22, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> See Emergency Declaration dated March 17, 2020. See also Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(1)(2).

<sup>3</sup> See Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 2, 2020; Second Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 28, 2020; Third Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated May 27, 2020; Fourth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated July 8, 2020; Fifth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated October 20, 2020; and Sixth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated January 22, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> See Orders dated March 16, 2020; March 18, 2020; April 1, 2020; April 28, 2020, pp. 2-5; and May 27, 2020, pp. 1-3 – Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nos. 531 and 532, Judicial Administration Docket. See also Emergency Declaration dated March 17, 2020; Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 2, 2020; Second Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 28, 2020; Third Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated May 27, 2020; Fourth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated July 8, 2020; Fifth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated October 20, 2020; and Sixth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated January 22, 2021.

<sup>5</sup> See Orders dated April 28, 2020, pp. 2-5 and May 27, 2020, pp. 1-3 – Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nos. 531 and 532, Judicial Administration Docket.

<sup>6</sup> See Orders dated April 28, 2020, pp. 2-5, and May 27, 2020, pp. 1-3 – Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nos. 531 and 532, Judicial Administration Docket.

<sup>7</sup> See *Philadelphia Inquirer*, May 13, 2020, Section B, p. 1 (“Infections greater at Delco jail - Jail: Nearly half of inmates tested had virus; infection rate 50 times that of the population at large.”); May 16, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 4 (“Over that past 14 days, Delaware County has on average 275 cases for each 100,000 residents ... significantly higher than the suburban counties surrounding it.”); May 19, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“Virus Rate Remains Stubbornly High in Delaware County”); May 22, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 9 (“Delaware County trails Philadelphia and the other counties in flattening the curve of new cases.”); July 2, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“... Pa. reports biggest one-day increase since June 5 ... . Cases ... June 1 ... July 1 ... Change ... +8%.”); July 8, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (Delaware County infection rate increases from 23 to 32 per 100,000 persons.); July 16, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“New Pa. limits as cases rising ... After averaging about 400 new cases a day less than a month ago, this state is now averaging close to 800. Case counts have increased in 43 counties and the percentage of people testing positive has increased in 28 counties ... .”); July 20, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 9 (Three (3) of the five (5) municipalities having the greatest number of Coronavirus cases per 10,000 residents within southeastern Pennsylvania are Delaware County communities.); July 22, 2020, Section A, p. 1 (“Pennsylvania is reporting an average of 871 cases per day, an increase of 120% from June 19, following a two-month decline.”); July 23, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 9 (Delaware County’s seven (7) day average of newly reported cases has increased 220% since June 27, 2020.); July 29, 2020 Section A, pp. 1, 6 (Since June 27, 2020, the daily average of new cases has increased 379% growing from 16 to 75.); July 30, 2020, Section A, p. 6 (“Delco count rising fastest in area[.] ... The county has gone from an average of 15.7 new cases a day on June 27 to 78.3 new cases a day on Tuesday – an increase of 398% ... . ‘We are concerned with what we have seen from Delaware County,’ ... Nate Wardell, a spokesperson from the state Health Department, said... .”); August 14, 2020, Section A, p. 1 (“... Pennsylvania Health Secretary ... cited ... Delaware Count[y] as [an] area[] in the state with high community spread of the coronavirus. Delaware County’s per capita rate of new cases now exceeds that of Philadelphia, Allegheny County, and the state as a whole.”); August 20, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 3 (“... Delaware County currently has the highest [COVID-19] rate [per 100,000 residents] in the region. ...”); October 7, 2020, Section A, 1, 8 (“Pennsylvania ... [is] entering October with coronavirus case levels at the highest they have been since the encl of spring Since the end of August, the

average number of new coronavirus cases reported each day nearly doubled in Pennsylvania”); October 8, 2020, Section A, p. 9 (“ ... [S]ince the end of August the average number of new coronavirus cases reported each day nearly doubled in Pennsylvania Compared with a month ago, average new cases a day have jumped by more than 400 in Pennsylvania, surpassing 1,000 per day last week ... .”); October 11, 2020, Section B, p. 2 (“Pa. virus cases hit 6-month high ... Pennsylvania reported its highest number of confirmed coronavirus infections in six months ... .”); October 13, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, 8 (“The average number of new coronavirus infections being diagnosed in Pennsylvania ... showed no signs of slowing, even after warnings last week from officials advising the public to double down on safety practices. ... The Commonwealth was averaging 1,300 new cases a day over the last seven days ... . ... Delaware [C]ount[y] [has] seen [a] rise[] in recent days. Using 14-day totals of new cases per 100,000 people, ... Delaware County went from 94 to 125”); October 16, 2020, Section A, p. 8 (“Pennsylvania reported 1,598 new coronavirus cases, the highest one-day count since April 24 and the 10th, day in a row new cases have exceeded 1,000. The commonwealth is now averaging 1,370 new cases a day, the highest daily average since April 14, right after the pandemic's first peak.”); October 23, 2020, Section A, p. 8 (“... Delaware ... Count[y] ... [has] more than 2,000 per 100,000 residents, well above the threshold the state deems safe.”); October 29, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 3 (“Pennsylvania's fall coronavirus surge has surpassed the state's April peak in new cases, the rising metrics continued sounding alarm bells on a day when Pennsylvania's average daily number of new cases rose above 2,000 for the first time during the pandemic, ... .”); November 5, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, 9 (“The coronavirus pandemic continued to escalate across the region daily increases are now even higher than in the springtime peak. ... [A]n infectious disease specialist ... said in an interview that the trends are dangerous, an expert's fear worse is to come.”); November 6, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, 4 (“As new coronavirus cases in Pennsylvania ... soar past levels that prompted shut downs in the spring the Pennsylvania Department of Health on [November 5, 2020] reported an unrepresented daily increase of ... COVID-19”); November 8, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, 4 (“Over the last four weeks, rates of new known coronavirus cases have at least doubled in ... every county in the Philadelphia area.”); November 10, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, 3 (“At the pandemic's eight month mark, Pennsylvania is in the midst of a streak of about 3,000 cases a day in the Philadelphia region, Delaware County has the highest positivity rate of 7.6%”); November 12, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, (“A second pandemic wave is ... in the region nearly nine months after the forced shutdowns ... . ... Hospitals in Delaware County in recent days became so inundated with COVID-19 that they are turning away ambulances ... .”); November 13, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“All five of Delaware County's hospitals were at capacity earlier this week and had to divert patients ... . ... Pennsylvania reported that it had received 5,488 new positive-test results and for the first time in the pandemic it averaged more than 4,000 cases a day in the seven-day period ... . ... In Delaware County, cases are close to where they were at the spring pandemic peak ... .”); November 16, 2020, Section B, pp. 1, 5 (“Pennsylvania's daily average has increased every day since mid-October, but in November the number has soared.”); November 17, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, (“With nearly 10,000 new infections reported in Pennsylvania between Sunday and Monday ... leaders across the region urged renewed intensity in the face of pandemic fatigue... . The statewide positivity rate has increased to 9.6% from 6.8%”); November 18, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“Pennsylvania's top health official issued a broader mask mandate, a bid to force people to wear face coverings as coronavirus case numbers continue to soar over the last four weeks rates of new known coronavirus cases have at least tripled in every county in the Philadelphia area.”); November 20, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 10 (“ ... [T]he coronavirus [is] spreading faster than ever, Pennsylvania reported more than 7,000 new cases Thursday, breaking its record for the third straight day. In just two weeks, Pennsylvania has gone from an average of 2,500 new cases a day to 5,700 cases a day ... . ‘The county has now exceeded the highest number of COVID-19 outbreaks since the height of the pandemic.’ ”); December 4, 2020, Section A, p. 1 (“Pennsylvania shattered its record for coronavirus cases logged in a single day by a staggering amount ... , reporting more than 11,000 new infections ... . ... All but eight of Delaware County's ICU beds were filled, state data showed.”); December 10, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“Pennsylvania officials have been considering a new statewide ban on indoor dining and mandatory closures of gyms and casinos, their most stringent steps this fall to combat soaring coronavirus cases and hospitalizations, ... . ... Pennsylvania's seven-day average of new cases per date neared 10,000 on Wednesday ... .”); December 11, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 6 (“Until Jan. 4, Pennsylvania will shut down indoor dining, suspend school sports and extracurriculars, close all casinos, gyms, and other entertainment venues, lower retail occupancy limits, and sharply reduce the number of people allowed to gather in one place ... . ... The new restrictions come at a point when the state's daily case numbers have sky rocketed with

more than 10,000 people newly infected each day for five out of the last eight days, ... "); December 16, 2020, Section A, pp. 1, 14 (" ... Pennsylvania reported its highest single-day death toll from COVID-19 since May and said nearly 6,300 virus patients were hospitalized across the commonwealth, twice the total from the same point last month. ... Pennsylvania surpassed 500,000 confirmed cases of the virus, reporting 9,556 new cases."); January 9, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 5 ("For the first time since mid-December, Pennsylvania on Friday reported more than 10,000 newly confirmed positive cases ... . Over 700,000 Pennsylvanians have tested positive for the virus, ... "); January 15, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 2 ("January is on pace to become Pennsylvania's deadliest month of the pandemic, ... . It is a continuation of a surge that has seen more than 8,300 Pennsylvanians reported dead since Dec. 1, ... . With the case surge not over yet, the death toll will keep growing; ... . Philadelphia, its Pennsylvania's suburbs, ... have all experienced surges in the death toll since the end of November, ... "); March 7, 2021, Section B, p. 1 (" ... [T]he suburban Philadelphia counties where State Health Department data shows – without explanation from Harrisburg – an alarming undersupply of vaccine doses to Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties ... "); March 8, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 4 ("An Inquirer data analysis last week indicated the suburban Philadelphia counties were receiving fewer doses per capita than other counties ... "); March 9, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 6 ("The fight over vacating Philadelphia's suburban counties intensified Monday, as Southeastern Pennsylvania politicians demanded that the state send more vaccine doses and the State Health Department indicated it had no plans to boost the region's share. ... In a rare joint statement Monday, the commissioners of Bucks, Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware Counties called on [the State Health Department] to act and said that the state had not been transparent about how many total doses have gone to the counties or whether it would correct any shortfalls. ... In addition, Bucks and Delaware Counties both disputed the state's reasoning for why their supplies were lower at points in the rollout. ... In Delaware County, which has received the least amount of vaccine per capita of the four counties, representatives were particularly vexed."); March 10, 2021, Section B, pp. 1, 2 ("Concerned that the region has received a disproportionately low share of doses compared with other counties, the commissioners of all four collar counties also called this week on the state to provide detail about how it monitors vaccine providers ... . Lawmakers and county officials sharply criticized the state Department of Health after it acknowledged the region had a vaccine undersupply but indicated that it would not take steps to fix it."); March 11, 2021, Section B, pp. 1, 6 ("In Delaware County where nearly 17% of the population is 65 and older, ... vice chair of [the county] council said most the frustration she hears is from seniors. 'They are our most vulnerable population, ... and they are having the most difficulty getting the vaccine.' "); March 11, Section B, pp. 1, 3 ("A Department of Health spokesperson said Monday that the state did not dispute an Inquirer data analysis or deny an undersupply. ... Delaware County – which had the lowest per capita dose delivery in the Inquirer analysis – ... "); March 13, 2021, Section A, p. 1 ("And officials in Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, and Chester Counties said they had not yet heard how many doses would come to them ... "); March 27, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 5 ("The Department of Health reported 4,927 new cases, and is now averaging 3,780 infections a day over the last seven a day [*sic*], according to an Inquirer analysis. That's an increase of 53% over the last two weeks."); March 30, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 6 ("A particularly ominous sign for the Philadelphia area: more than a third of samples taken over the last month from 80 COVID-19 patients had mutations known to make the virus more transmissible or resistant to current vaccines, or both ... . 'If you look at the state of Pennsylvania, cases in the Southeast are up sharply in the last few weeks. ... The more infections, the more spread, the more opportunity for the virus to mutate.' "); March 31, 2021, Section A, p. 7 ("But officials said middle and high school students should still be 6 feet apart when community transmission of the coronavirus is substantial – a category that currently includes Philadelphia and the collar counties."); April 1, 2021, Section A, p. 4 ("Coronavirus are continuing to rise ... . In Pennsylvania, COVID-19 cases continue to surge as health experts warn of a fourth wave of new infections. ... [T]he state was averaging over 4,000 infections over the last seven days – an increase of 57% over the last two weeks ... "); April 7, 2021, Section A, pp. 1, 6 ("Pennsylvania ... [is] seeing some of the nation's steepest increases in cases ... "); and April 14, 2021, Section A, p. 8 ("Pennsylvania reported 6,638 new COVID-19 cases, the most in a single day's reporting since the end of January. In the last seven days the daily average was 4,630 newly reported positive tests, the highest rate of new infections in more than two months."). *See also* Orders dated March 16, 2020; March 18, 2020; March 24, 2020; April 1, 2020; April 28, 2020; and May 27, 2020 – Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nos. 531 and 532, Judicial Administration Docket. *See additionally* Emergency Declaration dated March 17, 2020; Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 2, 2020; Second Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 28, 2020;

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Third Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated May 27, 2020; Fourth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated July 8, 2020; Fifth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated October 20, 2020; and Sixth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated January 22, 2021.

<sup>8</sup> See Emergency Declaration dated March 17, 2020; Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 2, 2020; Second Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 28, 2020; Third Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated May 27, 2020; Fourth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated July 8, 2020; Fifth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated October 20, 2020; and Sixth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated January 22, 2021.

<sup>9</sup> See Pa.R.J.A. No. 1952(B)(1).

<sup>10</sup> See Emergency Declaration dated March 17, 2020; Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 2, 2020; Second Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated April 28, 2020; Third Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated May 27, 2020; Fourth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated July 8, 2020; Fifth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated October 20, 2020; and Sixth Order Extending Emergency Declaration dated January 22, 2021.

<sup>11</sup> See Sixth Emergency Order Extension – Civil Section, *as Amended*, dated January 22, 2021; Fourth Emergency Order Extension – Criminal Section, *as Amended*, dated January 26, 2021; Sixth Emergency Order Extension – Family Section dated January 26, 2021; Sixth Emergency Order Extension – Magisterial District Court Operations dated January 28, 2021; Sixth Order Extending Emergency Postponement of Community Service dated January 27, 2021; Emergency Order Postponing January ... February ... and March ... 2021 Sheriff's Real Estate Sales dated January 7, 2021; Fifth Order Allowing for the Extension of Early Parole Review dated January 22, 2021; Fifth Order Allowing for the Extension of *Re-Parole* Review dated January 22, 2021; and Fifth Order Directing Emergency Postponement of Weekend-Partial Confinement Sentencing Terms ... , *as Amended*, dated February 16, 2021.

<sup>12</sup> See Endnote No. seven (7).

<sup>13</sup> See Orders dated March 16, 2020, p. 2; April 1, 2020, pp. 2-3; April 28, 2020, p. 3; and May 27, 2020 p. 2, Fn. 1 - Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Nos. 531 and 532, Judicial Administration Docket.