

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

IN RE: THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

3:21-MC-3

FOURTH EXTENSION OF STANDING ORDER

On March 27, 2020, Congress authorized, and the President of the United States signed, the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 29, 2020, the Judicial Conference of the United States found, “pursuant to the CARES Act, that emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) with respect to COVID-19 have materially affected and will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally.”¹ On April 2, 2020, this Court entered a Standing Order, which specifically found that “most criminal court proceedings, including all those enumerated in the Act, and felony pleas and sentencings, cannot be conducted in person anywhere in the District without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety.” *See* Cause No. 3:20-MC-9, Dkt. [3]. The Standing Order made other specific findings, as required by the CARES Act.

The Standing Order was set to remain in effect “for 90 days unless terminated earlier.” That 90-day period ended on July 1, 2020. Prior to its expiration, on June 29, 2020, the Court, finding that the same emergency conditions continued to exist in this District at that time, entered an Extension of the Standing Order, extending the Standing Order for an additional 90 days beginning on July 2, 2020. The Court thereafter extended the Standing Order on two additional occasions. The current Extension is set to expire on March 30, 2021. *See* Cause No. 3:20-MC-9, Dkt. [10].

The Court finds that the same emergency conditions continue to exist in this District and hereby extends the Standing Order for an additional 90 days unless terminated earlier, beginning on March 31, 2021. All terms of the Standing Order shall remain in place during this extended time

¹ See Director’s Memo from James C. Duff to All United States Judges March 29, 2020.

period. The Court will review this authorization and determine whether to extend it further if emergency conditions continue.

It is SO ORDERED, on this the 30th day of March, 2021.

/s/ Sharion Aycock
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE