

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE: *
EXTENSION OF REDUCED OPERATIONS * MISC. NO. 00-308
UNDER EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES *
CREATED BY COVID-19 *

STANDING ORDER 2020-21

On November 11, 2020, this Court entered Standing Order 2020-20 significantly reducing operations for a minimum of two weeks in response to worsening COVID-19 virus data, effective November 16, 2020. Since that time, the situation in the State of Maryland has continued to deteriorate. The statewide 7-day test positivity rate now exceeds 7% and continues on an upward trajectory. Moreover, the 7-day test positivity rates for the local jurisdictions surrounding each courthouse all exceed 5%, with some significantly higher, and all are trending upward. These metrics coincide with a rapid increase in both (1) the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19, and (2) the average number of new cases reported each day. State and local leaders have issued new restrictions in response to these rising figures. The Court also notes the upcoming holiday season and recognizes the likelihood of greater community spread and worsening data in the coming weeks.

In light of these factors, the Court now finds it appropriate to extend the duration of the restrictions set out in Standing Order 2020-20 through January 15, 2021. Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that the terms and limitations set out in Standing Order 2020-20 **ARE EXTENDED** and will be in effect through the close of business on January 15, 2021. All provisions of Standing Order 2020-20, including the suspension of all in-court hearings and proceedings, shall remain in force during this extended period; and it is further

ORDERED that the Court shall continue to review the COVID-19 virus data and all other relevant criteria on a regular basis to determine whether conditions have sufficiently improved such that the orders reducing court operations may be rescinded.

Date: November 19, 2020

/s/ JAMES K. BREDAR
James K. Bredar
Chief Judge