

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

**THIRD GENERAL ORDER REGARDING
CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

This General Order regarding the continuity of operations is the third issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). By [General Order](#) dated March 19, 2020, the Court found that because of the threat to public health and safety presented by public gatherings, the Court is unable to safely summons and convene an adequate cross-section of jurors as there is uncertainty as to the ability of parties, counsel, witnesses, court staff, and judges to attend criminal and civil trials.

.In light of the continued guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and other health authorities that employers should attempt to minimize exposure between employees and the public and to consider the public health and safety when scheduling group or public events, the Court finds that:

1. All civil and criminal petit jury selection and trials are continued to July 2020. There will be no jury selection or trials during May or June 2020. The Court finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuance of all criminal petit juries outweighs each defendant's right to and the public's interest in speedy trial. Therefore, the time period of the continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(7)(A), subject to the entry of an order addressing the same by the presiding judge in each case.

2. All grand jury proceedings are continued. There will be no grand juries in May or June 2020. Due to the unavailability of a grand jury in this District during the pendency of this General Order, the 30-day time period for filing an indictment is tolled as to each defendant until this General Order terminates. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b).

This order and all other aspects of this Court's March 19, 2020 order will remain in effect until June 30, 2020, unless terminated earlier. At such time, if emergency conditions continue to exist, the Court will determine whether to extend it.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

May 6, 2020

By the Court:

/s/ John J. McConnell Jr., Chief Judge