

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

STANDING ORDER

January 11, 2021

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY

STANDING ORDER CANCELING IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS IN SPRINGFIELD
COURT BUILDING

MASTROIANNI, U.S.D.J.

All in-person, non-emergency court proceedings in the Western Division of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts are cancelled for January, February, and March (until March 29th) of 2021. In-person proceedings will resume on Monday March 29, 2021 unless changes are made by a superseding order. Exceptions to this order may be authorized on a case-by-case basis by this court upon consideration of the specific circumstances. Proceedings of the current Grand Jury are excepted from this order. Civil and jury-waived trials may be excepted if arrangements can be made for virtual proceedings or an appropriately modified in-court/virtual hybrid proceeding.

This action is necessitated by the current increase in COVID-19 case numbers after the holiday season and the significant strain on healthcare systems. The Governor of Massachusetts and health care specialists have recognized the presence of the more easily spread United Kingdom variant in Massachusetts. This variant has been verified in cases in New Haven, Connecticut and Saratoga Springs, New York, both of which are geographically close to the Western Massachusetts area in terms of transmissibility. This order is consistent with indoor gathering concerns and occupancy limits reflected in COVID-related restrictions in Massachusetts and other states as well as recommendations from the CDC and state and local health agencies.

It is So Ordered.

/s/ Mark G. Mastroianni
MARK G. MASTROIANNI
United States District Judge