

**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 2021-01

On November 11, 2020, this Court entered Standing Order 2020-20 significantly reducing operations in response to worsening COVID-19 virus data, effective November 16, 2020. Following a continued deterioration in local virus data, the Court issued Standing Order 2020-21 on November 19, 2020, extending the duration of the reduced operations through January 15, 2021.

In recent weeks, the situation in the State of Maryland has not improved. The statewide 7-day test positivity rate now exceeds 9%, and the 7-day test positivity rates for the local jurisdictions surrounding each courthouse all exceed 6%, with some significantly higher, and all are trending upward. Moreover, the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 has more than doubled since Standing Order 2020-20 was entered. After setting a record high in December, the metric has plateaued at an elevated level. Further, the average number of new cases and deaths reported by the State remains very high. State and local leaders have increased restrictions on gatherings and other activities in response to these deteriorating statistics, particularly in the jurisdictions surrounding each courthouse. As such, conditions do not support a return to increased operations at this time.

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 February 26, 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 February 26, 2021. All provisions of Standing Order 2020-20 shall remain in force during this extended period, except in urgent and extraordinary circumstances as determined by the Chief Judge; 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whether conditions have sufficiently improved such that the orders reducing court operations may be modified or rescinded.

Date: January 4, 2021

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