Serial: 240427

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI

FILED

JAN 27 2022

OFFICE OF THE CLERK SUPREME COURT COURT OF APPEALS

## No. 2022-AD-00001-SCT

### **RE: EMERGENCY ORDER RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

#### **EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER-27**

From the onset of the national and state emergencies created by Coronavirus (COVID-19) in March 2020, the Court has issued a series of Emergency Administrative Orders to address the changing circumstances and the evolving guidance provided by health authorities. In these Orders, the Court has sought to properly balance individual rights, public health and safety, and the constitutional requirement that Mississippi state courts remain open and accessible. *See* Miss. Const. art. 3, §§ 24-25.

The most recent order (Emergency Administrative Order-26, filed on January 11, 2022) allowed individual trial judges the discretion to postpone jury trials through January 28, 2022, and allowed trial judges the discretion to allow that juror summonses should not be returnable prior to January 31, 2022.

After reviewing the most recent numbers of reported COVID-19 cases from the Mississippi Department of Health, the En Banc Court is in unanimous agreement that those dates should be extended by the following provisions.

#### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. Individual judges have the discretion to postpone jury trials scheduled through Friday. February 25, 2022. 2. Individual judges have the discretion to instruct their clerks that jury summonses should not be sent to jurors that would be returnable to any date prior to Monday, February 28, 2022.

3. Individual judges presiding over intervention courts are authorized to modify the scheduling of drug testing and home-supervision visits as they see fit through Friday, February 25, 2022.

4. All other provisions of Emergency Administrative Order-25 remain in effect. SO ORDERED, this the <u>27</u> day of January, 2022.

> MICHAEL K. RANDOLPH, CHIEF JUSTICE