

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA



IN RE APRIL 2020)
GRAND JURY)

ORDER

For the reasons set forth in this court's Standing Order 13, as amended on March 30, 2020, related to the ongoing COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, which are adopted and incorporated herein, and which include the fact that the President's Coronavirus Task Force and the Governor of North Carolina recommend that to prevent spread of COVID-19 everyone should avoid close contact with people who are or may be infected, recognizing that those infected may be asymptomatic yet spread the disease, and because Grand Jury proceedings involve a significant amount of close contact between Grand Jurors, court reporters, Government counsel, witnesses, interpreters, and court security officers and deputy marshals,

IT IS ORDERED that the Grand Jury proceedings for April 2020 are CANCELLED. The court previously cancelled the March 2020 Grand Jury for the same reasons. The court finds that due to the unavailability of a Grand Jury in this district, the period from February 25, 2020 through May 18, 2020 shall be excluded from the thirty-day period proscribed for the filing of an indictment or an information under 18 U.S.C. § 3161(b) as to each defendant arrested on such charges from February 25, 2020 through May 18, 2020; in

excluding this time and continuing the period within which the Government must file an indictment or information in these matters, the court finds that the ends of justice served by this action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendants in a speedy trial because the court finds further that the coronavirus has caused and will continue to cause disruptions in the administration of justice (see Standing Order 15), including the inability of the Grand Jury to meet to consider such charges "such that it is unreasonable to expect return and filing of the indictment within the period specified in section 3161(b)" in these cases. 18 U.S.C. 3161(h)(7)(A) and (B)(iii).

/s/ Thomas D. Schroeder
Chief United States District Judge

April 23, 2020