

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 11.35

ALACHUA COUNTY TRANSITION TO PHASE 2

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020 this Court issued Eighth Judicial Circuit AO 11.33, which established procedures for the transition to Phase 2 and mandated additional safety measures to be employed throughout the circuit; and

WHEREAS, AO 11.33 authorized the counties of Baker, Gilchrist, Levy and Union to move to Phase 2 on July 6, 2020, but directed that the counties of Alachua and Bradford remain in Modified Phase 1 until further order of the court; and

WHEREAS, AO 11.34 authorized Bradford County to move to Phase 2 on July 13, 2020.

WHEREAS, this Court has reviewed the data published by the Florida Department of Health and consulted with local health professionals to determine whether Alachua County has met the benchmarks required by Florida Supreme Court AOSC20-32, for transition into Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, this Court has determined that Alachua County clearly meets benchmarks 1, 2, 4 and 5. In regard to benchmark 3, while the number of positive tests has fluctuated and has not been on a consistent downward trajectory, the past 14 days has reflected (1) a decrease in the number of positive tests as a percentage of total tests, (2) a decrease in the number of Emergency Department visits for both COVID-19 and flu like symptoms, (3) continued low numbers of hospitalizations and low numbers of deaths, and (4) more than adequate medical facilities, including emergency and intensive care capacity. It is therefore determined that Alachua County now meets the necessary benchmarks and is ready to move into Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, this Order is entered pursuant to the authority vested in the Chief Judge by Article V, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution, as well as the Administrative Orders issued by the Florida Supreme Court,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that

1. **TRANSITION TO PHASE 2**

- A. Alachua County shall move to Phase 2 on July 28, 2020 and is authorized to conduct in-person court events in *Essential Court Proceedings, Critical Court Proceedings, and Phase 2 Court Proceedings* as defined in Eighth Judicial Circuit Administrative Order 11.33, Paragraphs 3 C, D & E below.
- B. This Court will continue to review the medical data furnished by the Department of Health, and will consult with medical health professionals, to consider, in the event of worsening conditions, the necessity of reverting and or all counties back to Modified Phase 1.

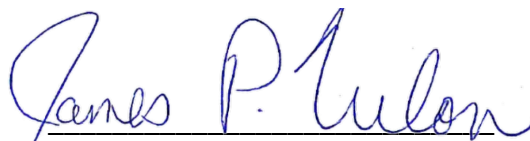
2. **PRIOR ORDER**

All term and conditions of Eighth Judicial Circuit Administrative Orders 11.33, issued on July 1, 2020, not inconsistent herewith, shall remain in full force and effect.

3. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Order shall take effect on July 28, 2020.

ORDERED ON this 27 day of July, 2020.


James P. Nilon, Chief Judge