

Minimum Standard Health Protocols for the Coryell County Judiciary

Recognizing the continued need to ensure the health and safety of prospective jurors, litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the court facilities, the courts of Coryell will implement the following minimum standard health protocols:

General

To assist with coordination of local resources and to manage capacity issues, courts will obtain prior approval for in-person jury proceeding from the local administrative district judge.

The court will consider on the record any objection or motion related to proceeding with the Jury proceeding at least seven (7) days before the court proceeding or as soon as practicable if the objection or motion is made or filed within seven (7) days of the court proceeding,

The court will establish communication protocols to ensure that no court participants have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days, currently have symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days or have had recent known exposure to COVID-19 within the previous fourteen (14) days.

Jury summons will contain contact information about jury trial health protocols.

Courts will excuse or reschedule positive or exposed jurors and vulnerable jurors who request to be rescheduled.

Court Staff Health

Court staff who have measured temperatures equal to or greater than 99.6°F, or having tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days, currently have symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days or have had recent known exposure to COVID-19 within the previous fourteen (14) days should advise their supervisor or department head immediately and seek medical advice.

Court staff will be required to wear face coverings, practice social distancing, and practice appropriate hygiene recommendations as directed by the presiding judge.

Protective Measures: (a) all areas will be arranged to maintain adequate social distance, (b) all restrooms will be evaluated to determine the appropriate capacity to ensure social distancing and the maximum capacity posted on each restroom door, and (c) hand sanitizer dispensers will be placed at the entrances to the building and outside of restrooms.

Vulnerable Population

Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy, are in the vulnerable population.

Each court will provide notice to individuals who are in vulnerable population of the ability to contact the court to identify themselves as a vulnerable individual and receive accommodations. A notice with this information will be posted in locations around the court facility.

Social Distancing

All persons not from the same household, who are permitted in a court facility, will be required to maintain adequate social distancing.

The County Courthouse elevator has capacity assessment with signs posted.

Each restroom has been evaluated to determine the appropriate capacity to ensure social distancing and the maximum capacity and has been posted on each restroom door.

The maximum number of persons permitted in the gallery area of the courtroom has been determined and posted. The maximum capacity of the courtroom will be monitored and enforced by court staff.

The gallery of the courtroom has been arranged for appropriate social distancing in the seating.

The courtrooms, counsel tables, witness chair, judge's table, and clerk, court reporter, and bailiff seating have been arranged in such a way so that there is social distancing.

Hygiene

Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed at the entrances to the building and outside of restrooms.

Tissues have been placed at counsel tables and at the witness stand.

The Department of State Health Service's "Stop the Spread of Germs Flyer" has been posted in multiple locations.

Screening

When individuals attempt to enter the court facility, county personnel will ask the individuals if they have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days, had symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days, or had recent known exposure to COVID-19 within the previous fourteen (14) days. Individuals who indicate yes to any of these questions will be refused admittance to the court facility.

When individuals attempt to enter the court facility, county personnel will use an infrared thermometer to determine the temperature of the individual. Individuals whose temperature equals or exceeds 99.6°F will be refused admittance to the court facility.

Inmates being transported from the jail to the court facility will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and have their temperature taken prior to transport. Inmates whose temperature equals or exceeds 99.6°F or have tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days, had symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous ten (10) days, or had recent known exposure to COVID-19 within the previous fourteen (14) days will not be transported to the court facility.

Face Coverings

All individuals entering the court facilities will be required to wear face coverings. Face covering should fit snugly, covering the chin, mouth, and the nose up to the nose bridge.

If an individual does not have a face covering, a face mask will be provided.

Face shields will also be available and provided as needed.

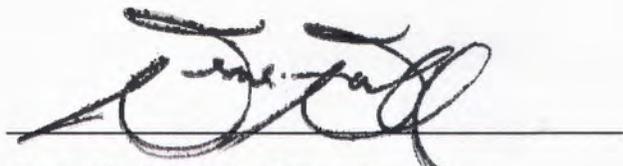
Cleaning

County staff will clean the common areas of the court facility frequently and sufficiently enough to ensure the safety of all participants involved in the court proceedings.

County Staff will clean the courtroom during the noon/lunch break, at the end of each day the courtroom is in use, and as directed by the presiding judge.

I have meet with the Judges in the creation of the Minimum Standards Health Protocol for the Coryell County Judiciary. As the local administrative district judge, I will maintain communication with the local health authority and county judge, and adjust the minimum standard health protocols with conditions in the county.

Date: 3/12/2021



Local Administrative District Judge