





Courthouse Safety Precautions

The Alaska Court System is taking many precautions to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 spread in courthouses.

Visitor precautions

-  Face coverings required at all times unless
 - are under 2 years old, or
 - have a mental or physical disability that prevents you from wearing a mask, or
 - have a medical condition in which wearing a face covering makes it hard for you to breathe.
- [Health screening questions upon entry into courthouse](#)
 - Do not enter courthouses if have:
 - flu-like symptoms, or
 - been directed to quarantine, isolate or follow strict social distancing by a medical provider or because of recent travel, or
 - been diagnosed with or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.
-  No-contact temperature checks and do not enter if over 100 degrees.
- Fill out visitor log with contact information.
-  Stay at least 6 feet from anyone else, except if in your household.
-  Hand sanitizer is available, including new hand sanitizer dispenser stations.
- Remote customer service and participation in most hearings is offered over the phone or video.
- Able to file documents by email.
- Able to pay filing fees online by credit card, and post bail online by credit card.

Courtrooms

- All participants (jurors, parties, lawyers, witnesses, victim, judge, court staff) must wear face coverings, except the judge may allow a witness to temporarily remove during testimony or for a defendant to be identified if other protective measures are followed.
- All participants must be 6 + feet apart from others, except lawyers may sit next to their clients. Jurors will be spread throughout the courtroom.
- Smaller groups of jurors called at one time.
- Only essential participants allowed in the courtroom – judge, clerk, parties, lawyers, victim, jurors, witness, interpreter, law enforcement.
- Courtrooms have Plexiglas screens where individuals need to speak or testify (judge, clerk, parties, lawyers, witness).
- Participants limit movement in the courtroom.
- Public and media can observe through remote methods – telephonic or video.

Cleaning



- Extra cleanings on high touch areas in courthouses – elevator buttons, handrails, door knobs, etc.
- Cleanings of tables, microphones, and Plexiglas screens throughout the day and between witnesses.
- Cleaning of courtrooms at end of every trial day.
- Special cleanings if someone is symptomatic, has been exposed to COVID-19, or tested positive for COVID-19.
- MERV-13 filters have been or will be installed in many courthouses when possible.

Employees



- Employees must stay home if sick, or have a positive COVID-19 test result and isolate according to public health instructions.
- Employees are required to quarantine if have:
 - COVID-19 symptoms,
 - been in close-contact with someone COVID-19 positive, or
 - returned from out-of-state traveluntil they meet guidelines for returning to work that have been created with the assistance of DHSS medical officials.
- Employees must wear face coverings when interacting with the public, when moving through the courthouse, and when away from their work stations.
- Employees work stations are 6+ feet from each other.
- Employees are provided sanitizing supplies – hand sanitizer and wipes.

Read the [Courthouse Visitor Alert](#), the [Presiding Judges' Statewide Administrative Covid-19 Precautions Order](#), the Chief Justice's [Order No. 8194](#) Regarding COVID 19 and Jury Trials, and [Conducting Jury Trials During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).