

June 23, 2020

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JURY SERVICE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- 1) **Are jury trials still needed?** Yes, they are. Jury trials are a cornerstone of the justice system. They are critical to fair hearings and a key constitutional guarantee (Amendment VI, U.S. Constitution) for all.
- 2) **Will jury duty be in person or via virtual means?** Jury duty will be in person. There are many reasons for this to include constitutional rights of the accused, access to attorney presentations, access to evidence/exhibits and to facilitate juror discussion during deliberations.
- 3) **What if I am in a high-risk category or I am an essential worker? Can I be excused or rescheduled for jury duty?** Yes, you can. Follow the instructions on your summons to apply for these options.
- 4) **Will the courthouse be clean and safe?** Yes, the courthouse, courtrooms and jury deliberations rooms will be cleaned thoroughly daily. Protecting the health and safety of the public and courthouse staff is essential.
- 5) **Will the courtroom and jury rooms adhere to the CDC precautionary measures of social distancing?** Yes, the court will adhere to the CDC precautionary measures. Jury positions will be marked in the courtrooms and jury deliberation spaces.
- 6) **Will I have to bring a mask/face covering and gloves?** Masks/face coverings are required to be worn in the courthouse. If you personally desire to bring and wear your own personal protective equipment, you may do so. The court will also have masks available if you are unable to provide your own.
- 7) **Will the courthouse have hand sanitizer dispensers and hand washing areas available?** Yes, hand sanitizers and hand washing areas will be available in the courts.
- 8) **What if I feel unsafe or sick after reporting to jury duty?** Contact the bailiff or jury service coordinator immediately.
- 9) **What if I feel sick prior to coming? Should I report for jury duty or do I stay home?** If you feel sick, stay home and contact the jury service coordinator (360-427-9670 ext. 537) for instructions.
- 10) **Will coffee and reading materials be available?** At this time for CDC precautionary reasons, the court will not be offering coffee or reading materials. Please feel free to bring your own. Dispose of them once done.