

NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19 AND JURY DUTY

The Luzerne County Courthouse is taking special precautions regarding your jury selection and service as we begin to summon jurors for upcoming jury trials. The Court recognizes that your presence in serving as a potential juror may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please appear as directed according to the information in your summons unless you have already been deferred or excused, you are ill, or you have a high-risk condition. As you will note on your summons, you may be required to report to the Courthouse directly or possibly to another remote location. Your summons will list the specific location where you should report. Designated parking areas in those locations will be free of charge. Please note that although you may appear for jury selection on your assigned summons date, if you are selected to serve on a jury panel, you may be given a future date to appear for the actual jury trial.

Please know that in conjunction with the CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Court has implemented various precautions to help ensure your safety while you serve. We will also need your assistance and cooperation in following the protocols that have been established.

- ❖ Individuals reporting for jury duty must arrive with a mask or face covering and consent to a no-contact temperature screening. You may also be asked to respond to questions regarding COVID-19. Anyone exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will not be admitted.
- ❖ Social distancing will be practiced throughout the Courthouse particularly in the jury assembly area, as well as elevators, courtrooms, hallways, etc. and at remote location sites serving as juror assembly areas.
- ❖ Individuals reporting for jury duty may be asked to enter through a separate entrance.
- ❖ There will be a *“No Contact Check-In”* whereby jurors will display their summons card and their valid ID to be verified. The corresponding bar code on the summons card will be scanned with a hand held scanner to register the juror electronically.
- ❖ The number of jurors reporting will be limited and arrival times will be staggered in order to maintain social distancing.
- ❖ The overall number of people in the Courthouse and courtroom will be restricted.
- ❖ Hand sanitizer stations and disinfecting wipes will be placed in key areas.

- ❖ A plexiglass barrier has been established in the juror assembly area in the Courthouse.
- ❖ There will be no access to magazines or to a water cooler. You may bring your own refreshments, snacks and/or reading material while awaiting selection in the jury assembly area. Information on food service availability at each jury assembly location will be provided during juror orientation.
- ❖ Restrooms in most areas will have limited occupancy.
- ❖ Times for breaks and lunches will be staggered.
- ❖ Additional staff will be added to assist with concerns and directives when required.
- ❖ As much as possible, we will facilitate the frequent use of restrooms for hand washing if requested.
- ❖ Jurors are encouraged to share concerns with the Jury Administration staff or Court Administration.

Please know that we take this situation very seriously. If you are ill or experiencing any symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms of Covid-19 infection, please do not report for service. If you have been exposed to someone who is ill or you have been exposed to anyone experiencing similar symptoms, please do not report for jury service. If you have any questions or will not be reporting due to the information contained in this paragraph, please contact 570-825-1696 to speak with a staff associate or to leave a message.

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