

RESUMING JURY TRIALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

- 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, which 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 the 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 or contact the clerk's office at (509) 427-3770.
Will the courthouse be clean and safe? Yes. In tandem with best practices and guidelines developed by Resumption of Jury Trials Workgroup initiated by Chief Justice Debra Stephens, and in compliance with current public health guidance from the CDC and consultation with local health officials and County Risk Management, stringent health and safety procedures have been implemented to ensure the safety for those reporting for jury service. The courtroom, jury deliberation room and other facilities used to conduct jury trials will be cleaned thoroughly daily. The court has installed REME HALO air purifiers in the existing air ducts to help sanitize and kill microbials in the air. You can find more information here <https://www.rgf.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/REME-HALO-spec-white.pdf>.
In addition to the air purifiers, the court has installed plastic protective shields within the seating area and numerous hand sanitization stands within the courtroom and jury room. Protecting the health and safety of the public and courthouse staff is essential.
- 4. Will the court adhere to the CDC precautionary measures regarding social distancing and masking?** Yes, the court will adhere to the CDC precautionary measures. Markings will be placed throughout the areas used by jurors to ensure appropriate social distancing. Masks will be required.
- 5. Will I have to bring a mask and/or gloves?** If you personally desire to bring and wear your own personal protective equipment you may do so. The court will also have masks and/or gloves available for those needing one or the other. Glove wearing is not required.
- 6. Will the courthouse have hand sanitizer dispensers and hand washing areas available?** Yes, hand sanitizing dispensers will be located throughout the areas used by the jurors. Hand washing areas are available in the restrooms.
- 7. What if I feel unsafe or sick after reporting to jury duty?** Contact the bailiff or clerk immediately.
- 8. What if I feel sick the day I am suppose to start jury duty? Should I report for jury duty, or do I stay home?** If you feel sick, stay home and contact the clerk's office at (509) 427-3770.
- 9. Will coffee, snacks and/or reading materials be available?** At this time for CDC precautionary reasons the court will not be offering these items. Please feel to bring your own. Dispose of them once done.
- 10. Can I bring my own water bottle?** Yes. Please make sure that it has a lid that closes tightly. Also be aware that the courthouse does not have anywhere to fill the bottles at this time.