



IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TULSA COUNTY  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

AO-2021- 4

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: UPDATED COVID-19 PROCEDURES**

Tulsa County District Court, in response to the recent lifting of COVID-19 safety protocols by the City of Tulsa and Tulsa County, as well as the ongoing vaccinations in Tulsa County and the resulting dramatic decrease in weekly new COVID-19 cases, enters the following COVID-19 safety protocols, effective immediately and until further order of the Court:

1. All persons entering the Tulsa County Courthouse are encouraged to wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth while in public areas of the Courthouse. A mask will be provided by Tulsa County if needed. For security purposes, masks that cover the entire face or head will not be permitted.

2. No person should enter a courtroom or a judge's and judicial staff's workplace where the person has visible COVID-19 symptoms, such as severe cough, shortness of breath, or a fever of 100.4 Fahrenheit (°F) or higher or reports feeling feverish or if they are undergoing evaluation for COVID-19 infection, such as a pending viral test, or a diagnosis of COVID-19 infection in the prior 10 days or close contact to someone with a COVID-19 infection during the prior 14 days or has been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, board of health, or other medical provider, or health agency, or who resides with anyone who has been asked to quarantine.<sup>1</sup>

3. All persons entering the Courthouse are encouraged to exercise proper social distancing while in the public areas of the Courthouse. However, the recommendations of six (6) feet may be reduced, at the discretion of an individual judge, in their respective courtroom, to a minimum of three (3) feet, and in the jury assembly room, at the discretion of the Court Administrator.

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<sup>1</sup> See CDC "COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings" updated April 7, 2021.

4. The general public is encouraged to refrain from doing any nonessential business at the Courthouse. This includes family and friends of parties who have a court proceeding where those family members or friends are not directly involved in the proceedings. Judges are authorized to exclude such nonessential persons from their courtrooms at their discretion. Judges and judicial staff also continue to be authorized to close their individual judicial offices to the public, if they so choose.

5. "In person" proceedings are authorized. Judges will have discretion in their individual courtrooms as to face coverings in the courtroom and the number of persons allowed in the courtroom at one time, while recognizing appropriate social distancing. Judges shall, however, be cognizant of CDC guidance that, regardless of vaccination status, medium- or large-sized "in person" gatherings are to be avoided. Judges are also encouraged to continue to stagger their dockets, make use of available afternoon docket times, and decrease total numbers on any given docket.

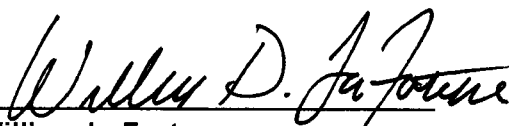
6. While "in person" proceedings are authorized for every Division of the District Court, judges are *strongly encouraged* to use remote video and telephonic hearings to the extent possible pursuant to Rule 34 of the Rules for District Courts of Oklahoma. Microsoft Teams is the video platform approved by the Oklahoma Supreme Court for Oklahoma's district courts.

7. Jury trials will continue to be conducted pursuant to AO-2019-13 (Third Amended Fiscal Year 2021 Jury Schedule) filed September 30, 2020 and AO-2019-19 (Fiscal Year 2022 Jury Schedule) filed September 30, 2020. The jury assembly COVID-19 protocols currently in place and administered by the Court Administrator will continue.

8. The "Small Claims/FED" docket will remain at the Family Center for Juvenile Justice, with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners of Tulsa County.

9. This Administrative order supersedes all previous administrative orders in regard to COVID-19 protocols and is applicable to all Divisions of the District Court, including the Juvenile Division.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
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William LaFortune  
Presiding Judge