

In the
Indiana Supreme Court



In the Matter of the Petition of the
Courts of Wells County for
Administrative Rule 17 Emergency Relief.

Supreme Court Case No.
20S-CB-163

Order Approving Expansion of Operations Plan

By orders issued April 24 and May 13, 2020, this Court ordered trial courts statewide to submit plans for gradually resuming normal operations under limitations appropriate to the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency. Pursuant to that order, the petitioning court(s) filed an expansion of operations plan (“Plan”) on May 29, 2020.

The Court finds that the Plan was made in coordination with appropriate local authorities and local justice system partners to account for local health conditions, facility readiness, and litigants’ needs; and that the Plan makes reasonable provisions for resuming normal staffing, providing public access to non-confidential proceedings, and resuming jury trials. A copy of the Plan is attached to this order and incorporated by reference.

Being duly advised, and pursuant to Indiana Administrative Rule 17 and this Court’s inherent authority to supervise the administration of all courts of this State, the Court ORDERS as follows:

1. All emergency relief previously granted to the petitioning court(s) under Administrative Rule 17 is deemed to expire as of the effective date of this order, except as provided by this Court’s “Order Extending Trial Courts’ Emergency Tolling Authority and Setting Expiration of Other Emergency Orders” issued May 29, 2020 in Case No. 20S-CB-123. However, this Court’s May 13, 2020 “Emergency Order Permitting Expanded Remote Hearings” and paragraph 3 of its May 13 “Order Extending Time for Expanding Trial Court Operations” in Case No. 20S-CB-123 (prohibiting jury trials before July 1 without prior approval of this Court) remain in full force and effect.
2. The Plan is approved, and the petitioning court(s) shall comply with its terms through its stated duration, subject to further order of this Court.

Done at Indianapolis, Indiana, on 6/9/2020, **effective May 29, 2020.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve David".

Steve David
Acting Chief Justice of Indiana

GUIDELINES FOR ALL PHASES

Based upon COVID-19 response lessons learned, the following are in place:

- Social distancing and protective equipment
- Notification, isolation, and contact tracing procedures for courthouse employees and visitors
- Sanitation and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas
- Reasonable accommodation for employees (e.g., children's schools or daycare closed, fear or actual risk of exposure when using mass transit, caring for ill or vulnerable persons in the household)

All employees are to self-monitor for indicative symptoms of COVID-19 and to stay home if they exhibit symptoms or feel ill. Employees who have had COVID-19 or its symptoms should return to work only after consulting with and getting clearance from a medical provider.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Continue to practice good hygiene

- Wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces
- Avoid touching your face
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the inside of your elbow
- Frequently disinfect used items and surfaces
- Strongly encourage using face coverings while in public
- Maintain 6-foot separation and other social distancing measures

People who feel sick should stay home

- Do not go to work
- Contact and follow the advice of your medical provider

LEGAL AUTHORITY

In the Matter of Administrative Rule 17 Emergency Relief for Indiana Trial Courts Relating to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Indiana Supreme Court Case No. 20S-CB-123.

EMPLOYEES

Each court must utilize screening procedures that identify the presence of COVID-19 symptoms, COVID-19 exposure and international travel.

Local health orders will provide direction on the screening criteria that is appropriate for outbreak conditions in the community. Symptoms may change as we learn more about the virus. The screening questions should include, but not be limited to:

- Fever greater than 100.4 degrees;
- Cough or worsening cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason);
- Shortness of breath, or any two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell

Additionally, employees and members of the public seeking entry into the courthouse should be asked if they have had any close contact in the last 14 days with someone with a diagnosis of COVID-19. Lastly, employees and members of the public should be asked whether they have traveled internationally or outside Indiana in the last 14 days.

Any “yes” response to the screening questions above requires the individual to be excluded:

- For at least 72 hours with no fever (three full days of no fever without use of medicine that reduces fever) AND other symptoms have

improved AND at least 7 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

- For 14 days following close contact with diagnosed case of COVID-19.
- For 14 days following travel outside Indiana, unless that travel was due to commuting from home and work on a regular basis.

JUDGES AND COURT

Before entering additional phases of reopening, the court must continue to hold proceedings virtually whenever possible. The court must continue social distancing (at least 6 feet from another person) for employees working in shared spaces and customers waiting for services inside the courthouse. Face coverings should be strongly encouraged.

FACILITIES

Employees should not share space or equipment. If that is not possible, employees shall wash their hands before and after using shared equipment. Clean and sanitize equipment between uses.

The court shall limit capacity inside courtrooms and common areas in the courthouse to provide for social distancing between individuals and employees. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of signs, contact barriers, entrance limits, and specialized hours. Plexiglass barriers shall be in place at points of entry to offices of employees.

PHASE ONE:
PREPARATION TO REOPEN – FIRST STEPS

April through May 29, 2020

Care of Employees

All the steps in this section apply not only to court staff, but also to probation employees.

Identify who can work remotely and who has to be at the facility to perform the job functions. Anyone who can work remotely should continue to do so as long as feasible and ideally into Phase 2 with priority given to those most vulnerable employees.

Identify the employees who are at increased risk. Per CDC and ISDH guidance, a person is at risk if over the age of 65, or anyone who has any of the following underlying medical conditions:

- Chronic lung diseases or moderate to severe asthma
- Serious heart conditions
- Immunocompromised from any disease such as cancer, AIDS, or medications that compromise immunity
- Severe obesity (BMI of 40 or higher)
- Chronic kidney disease requiring dialysis

Employees will not be asked to identify what medical condition they have that makes them particularly vulnerable. This information must be kept separate from other personnel files.

Employees who are increased risk should work remotely indefinitely if at all possible. When working remotely is not possible due to necessary job duties, other reasonable accommodations including locating the worker away from the public, medical grade PPE, and increased social distancing.

If any employee has had recent contact with someone who has COVID-19, that employee should not be allowed to return to a shared workspace until the employee has been self-quarantined and symptom free for fourteen days. Because COVID-19 may be asymptomatic, the employee is required to be tested before entering a shared workspace.

Employees are to report if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 in the preceding three days, including:

- Fever of 100.4 that day or in the preceding 3 days
- Chills
- Muscle and body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Cough, chest tightness, or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

The employee is not to enter the workplace if they have experienced any of these symptoms. A disciplinary consequence will occur if an employee disregards the policy and comes to the workplace ill. If an employee has any of the symptoms during the workday, the employee is to report it and go home.

An employee shall report if someone they live with or have been with in the last fourteen days tests positive for COVID-19. The employee shall be sent home on leave or to work remotely for as long as the health department advises.

Safety Provision for the Employees

The working space will provide 6 feet of distance between workstations that are open. If this is not possible, ways to minimize contact between staff will be corrected such as:

- Installing plexiglass
- Rotation of staff so people in adjacent work areas are not working on the same day or at the same time

Employees are to use good hygiene in the workplace, including:

- Washing hands with soap and water or with alcohol-based sanitizer
- Avoid touching the face
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue or the arm
- Frequent disinfection of used items and surfaces
- Maintain 6-foot social distance

Employees are directed to not share computers or other office equipment. Equipment that must be shared, such as copiers, shall either be assigned to one person or shall be sanitized with each use.

ADA Requirements for Employees

If an employee reveals that they have COVID-19, the court has the responsibility to inform all persons who had contact with the employee. However, the employee's name may not be revealed. If the notification necessarily causes other persons to realize who the employee is that has tested positive, this is not a violation of the ADA. The public health emergency requires that persons be warned who have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19. EEOC and DOL guidance state that because of the pandemic, employers should inform all those who have had contact even though the caution may allow others to discern who has the illness. The only restriction is to not state or confirm the name of the employee without the specific permission of the employee. This notification will permit the health department to conduct "contact tracing" which is an important tool in fighting the COVID-19 virus and stopping its spread.

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) applies to the court and its employees. It provides for up to two weeks of paid sick leave if the employee is quarantined by a government agency or a health care provider or has COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis. It also provides for two weeks of paid sick leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay if the employee is unable to work because the school or childcare provider for the employee's child is closed due to COVID-19. Employees may also be eligible for up to an additional ten weeks of partially paid expanded family and medical leave for necessary childcare when a school or childcare provider is unavailable for COVID-19 reasons.

There are income limits and specific benefits are also affected by the particular benefit plan of the county.

Preparation of the Physical Facilities

Deep cleaning of the courtroom and court offices has occurred already. The cleaning policy of the county will be adequate when the courtroom and offices are reopened.

The Clerk's office shall determine how to safely handle mail, especially mail from prisons. The Courts have utilized taping areas to mark six-foot distances in the Hallway and in the Courtrooms.

The courtroom is too small to safely impanel a jury and the Courts are searching for alternative sites in the county. Schools, 4-H Building and the Life Church Community Convocation Center have been contacted and are willing to permit jury selection at their venue.

The Prosecuting Attorney, defense counsel, and child services have been consulted to determine what changes need to be made to ensure social distancing.

The Sheriff has been consulted for a plan for screening the public when the court facilities reopen while protecting the security personnel. The screening questions will be utilized. The Courts, the Prosecutor, Defense counsel and the Sheriff have worked together to significantly reduce the jail population.

Masks are available if a person appears without a mask.

**PHASE TWO:
RESUMING NON-EMERGENCY
HEARINGS & OPERATIONS**

This will begin May 30, 2020

Employees

All vulnerable employees should continue remote work. Employees who live with or provide care for vulnerable individuals should do the same to the greatest extent possible to reduce chances that they could carry the virus to these vulnerable individuals.

To reduce risks, prior to coming into the office, all employees should conduct a health self-assessment, to include taking their temperature. If an employee's temperature is greater than 100.4 degrees or if an employee is exhibiting other signs of COVID-19 infection per updated CDC guidance, the individual should self-report to Judges, stay home, and call their physician. Use the CDC Self-Checker to assist.

When in the office, all individuals should maximize physical distance from others. Six-foot distancing should be observed in all areas. Tape or other visible markers are used to mark 6-foot distances where practical.

Probation: While remote mail visitation should continue as possible, begin off-site visits to probationers and clients as needed. Face coverings are required for all face-to-face meetings where social distancing cannot be maintained.

GAL/CASA visits may resume while maintaining social distancing. Masks should be provided for GAL/CASA staff. Identify volunteer GAL/CASA who fall into vulnerable class and assign alternate volunteers to perform home visits.

Essential business travel may resume.

Personal travel can resume. However, employees should continue to take benefit time at home or work remotely for fourteen days when returning from out of state travel to locations that are considered a “hot spot” like New York, New Jersey and Louisiana.

Handling the Public

As much as possible, continue to hold hearings remotely. The courts are expanding hearing types to include family and civil hearings.

Anyone entering the building shall be screened by security personnel at the building entrances. The screener should ask the questions for screening of COVID-19. Masks will be provided.

Each court should determine the priority of hearings, giving high priority to hearings that may be held remotely.

Design the hearing schedule to minimize contacts between persons. When in person hearings must be held, attorneys and litigants are encouraged to arrive timely for hearings and depart promptly upon conclusion, limiting attendance to only essential persons.

Small claims hearing shall be limited to five (5) hearings per 30 minutes.

Mediation shall be completed prior to the setting of any contested hearing, other than small claims.

The only persons who will be physically present for hearings are parties and attorneys. Where possible, witnesses will testify remotely. A waiting room is established that allows for social distancing for persons waiting to enter the courtroom. Signs are posted that only the attorneys and parties whose case is currently being heard are to enter the courtroom. The public and/or spectators are permitted to enter the courtroom as space is available. The public and/or spectators shall register with the Bailiff and will be permitted on a first come basis for the limited number of seating in the courtroom.

Sanitizer and masks are available for anyone entering the courtroom or court offices.

Arrangements have been made with the DOC and the Sheriff for remote hearings of offenders and jail inmates in Circuit Court. Superior Court will utilize this as can be arranged with Circuit Court.

The remote hearings are to be made public: YouTube, CiscoWebEx, Court Call are options. Reasonable steps to keep the hearing from being broadcast publicly are taken. Community Corrections have continued to monitor all individuals throughout the timeline of the pandemic.

**PHASE THREE:
RESUMPTION OF JURY TRIALS**

This will begin July 1, 2020

Employees

Vulnerable individuals may return to work but remote work should still continue where it does not hinder the work of the court.

Monitoring of health may discontinue if the local health department concurs. Otherwise, it will continue indefinitely.

The restrictions on entering the workplace shall continue for employee with symptoms of coronavirus.

All other practices to protect employees should continue.

Facility and Jury

Anyone entering any public area should continue to be screened for COVID-19 and encouraged to wear a mask, and masks will be made available at no costs.

Criminal cases where a Defendant is in jail shall be given priority over all other jury trials.

The court will consult with counsel for both parties on how to handle the wearing of masks by witnesses while testifying and the jurors during voir dire.

An additional COVID-19 questionnaire will be sent to the jurors. (Attached as Appendix 1)

Deferrals for jurors will be considered for the following:

- Essential workers, including those working in long term care facilities
- Jurors with vulnerable health conditions or living with those who are vulnerable

- COVID-19 exposure
- People just returning to work after furloughed
- Provide for last minute deferrals due to COVID-19 symptoms occurring while or after jury is impaneled

The Courts will utilize an offsite jury selection venue and then having the Juror return to the courtroom for the trial. Jury deliberation rooms are large enough to social distance.

A link will be provided for the Supreme Court Jury Duty video.

<https://www.in.gov/judiciary/2610.htm>

The Court will:

- Set times for bench decisions that will reduce the time jurors are together
- Establish where sidebars will occur
- Determine safest method to handle food for jurors
- Consult with counsel on how to handle exhibits that minimizes contacts and allows sufficient examination of the exhibits.
Provide gloves to jurors to handle exhibits

PHASE FOUR: WHEN THE PANDEMIC IS OVER

Employees

Vulnerable individuals resume all daily work/life activities with no need for additional precautionary measures.

Normal social activities and gatherings can resume.

Hygiene practices such as proper handwashing and use of hand sanitizer should continue.

Unrestricted staffing of worksites.

On-site public facing activities and site visits can be fully resumed with probationers and clients. GAL/CASAs may resume normal visits with families. Resume full, unrestricted operations and activities.

Facilities

All access and operations can operate without restrictions. Security operations return to full, pre-COVID-19 functionality.

Debriefing and Pandemic Planning

At this stage, the Judges of Circuit and Superior Court should debrief with local court stakeholders to evaluate pandemic response. Court stakeholders include, but are not limited to representatives from the following: health department, emergency management services, local law enforcement, Prosecuting attorney's office, public defenders and representation from the local bar. Debriefing should be conducted with the following objectives in mind:

- Identify COVID-19 responses that worked well
- Identify opportunities for improved local pandemic responses in the future, and

- Begin planning process to incorporate “lessons learned” into existing continuity of operations plans (COOP), or separate pandemic specific COOP plans.

Consider contacting the Office Judicial Administration to help facilitate debrief sessions and assist the courts in developing robust response plans.

Appendix 1

JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE

Juror Name: _____ Juror # _____

ADDITIONAL JUROR QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING COVID-19

3RD Quarter – July through September 2020

1. Are you an essential healthcare worker?

_____ Yes

_____ No

2. If yes, where are you employed and in what capacity?

3. Have you been exposed to COVID-19?

_____ Yes

_____ No

4. If yes, approximate date of exposure: _____

5. Have you tested positive for COVID-19?

_____ Yes

_____ No

6. If yes, approximate date of positive test: _____

7. Are you currently experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 and been told to quarantine?

_____ Yes

_____ No

8. If yes, on what date were you told to quarantine? _____

9. Are you an employee who has been laid off due to COVID-19 and have recently been returned to work?

_____ Yes

_____ No

10. If yes, where are you employed, how long were you laid off, and when did you return to work?

11. Are you considered an individual in a vulnerable population due to age or health conditions?

_____ Yes

_____ No

12. Any other concerns related to COVID-19 you have regarding your jury service?

I SWEAR OR AFFIRM UNDER THE PENALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS, REPRESENTATIONS, AND ANSWERS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

Signature of Juror

20S-CB-163

WELLS CIRCUIT AND SUPERIOR COURTS
Bluffton, Indiana

**IN RE: THE MATTER OF REQUESTING
RELIEF UNDER INDIANA**

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17

Cause 90C01-2003-CB-163

**AMENDED PETITION FOR RELIEF UNDER INDIANA
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE 17**

The Courts of Wells County petition the Indiana Supreme Court for relief under Indiana Administrative Rule 17. In support of this petition, the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts inform the Indiana Supreme Court as follows:

1. The Judges of the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts have conferred with the Clerk of the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts; President of the Wells County Bar Association; Representative of the Wells County Health Department; Wells County Public Defenders; Wells County Prosecuting Attorney; Wells County Sheriff; and, Commissioners of Wells County. This will be ongoing throughout the implementation of phase-in of court operations.
2. The Judges have reviewed various media outlets and the websites of the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC).
3. After conferring one another, the Judges of the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts have determined the following emergency exists:
 - A. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that was first identified in an outbreak in Wuhan, China.
 - B. COVID-19 can be spread from person to person. It is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may also be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a

- surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.
- C. Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some patients also have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure, and in some cases death.
 - D. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported in January 21, 2020.
 - E. On March 6, 2020, the first case of a Hoosier infected with the COVID-19 was confirmed by the ISDH.
 - F. As of May 27, 2020, the ISDH has confirmed 33,068 cases of persons infected by the COVID-19 virus and 1,907 deaths.
 - G. The Wells County Health Department has advised confirmed 24 cases.
 - H. Wells County borders Adams County, Allen County, Blackford County, Grant County and Huntington County. Residents of all counties frequently commute back and forth for work and shopping.
 - I. Wells County has three different local school districts. Each is now closed and scheduled eLearning the week of March 16, 2020.
 - J. The Governor of the State of Indiana has declared a public health emergency.
 - K. The Governor of the State of Indiana has directed Indiana adhere to the recommendations of the CDC.
 - L. The CDC is encouraging “social distancing” as a means of limiting the spread of COVID-19 and other potentially fatal viruses.
 - M. The Governor of the State of Indiana has issued Executive Orders expanding Indiana’s transition from a Stay at Home status to reopening; and it is called Back on Track. The plan is currently in Phase Three.

4. The Judges of the Wells Circuit and Superior Courts have determined the emergency will have an effect on the local administration of justice as follows:
 - a. The Wells Circuit and Superior Courts hold hearings and proceedings which result in large numbers of people entering the Wells County Courthouse. Large numbers of people congregate in the hallways, jury rooms, and courtrooms of the Wells County Courthouse.
 - b. That mitigation of the spread of contagions is of utmost importance to protect the citizens of Wells County and State of Indiana.
 - c. In addition, minimizing the exposure and spread of contagions to court personnel is critical to insure the uninterrupted operation of the courts of Wells County.
 - d. The closure of schools and childcare centers will result in the necessity of court personnel, including clerks, attorneys; litigants, and witnesses, to assist with child care.
 - e. At the end of the week of May 27, 2020, the Judges had conferred several times regarding the effect of the COVID-19 outbreak and the desire to maintain the operation of the courts with voluntary measures, such as allowing litigants to continue hearing if they were ill.
 - f. It appears to the Judges of the Courts of Wells County, a formal plan to address the emergency is necessary to provide guidance and to enforce efforts to minimize exposure, and to transition to gradually expand Court operations as conditions permit.
5. Based upon the above sources of information, the Judge of the Courts of Wells County believe emergency will exist for at least the next 30 days, but potentially may be of longer duration.
6. Wells Circuit Court is a general jurisdiction court that has jurisdiction over a wide variety of case types, including Criminal felonies, juvenile, probate, domestic relations, mental health and plenary. Likewise, Wells Superior is also a general jurisdiction court handling a variety of

case types, including criminal misdemeanors and felonies; domestic relations, small claims and plenary.

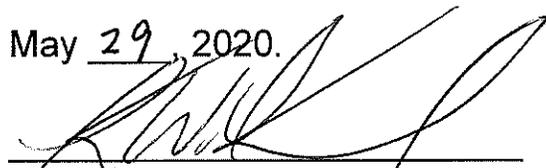
7. The Judges of the Courts of Wells County submit the following plan of emergency measures:
 - a. Continue the regular operation of the Courts for the filing of pleadings and new cases, both civil and criminal.
 - b. Proceed with hearings, utilizing measures to limit the number of people who physically come to the court for the hearings, such as telephone and video conferencing, and to require parties to complete mediation prior to litigating issues to the Court.
 - c. Due to the limited seating available in the courtrooms, (Superior – 10 and Circuit -12) and in the Hallway outside the courtrooms (12), limit entrance into the courthouse of non-essential persons, such as friends, family members, and other spectators.
 - d. Prohibit access to the Courthouse by individuals, including attorneys, who are demonstrating flu like symptoms.
 - e. Expediting motions to continue when the attorneys, parties or witnesses are unavailable because they are voluntarily quarantined, at high-risk to suffer from exposure to COVID-19 because of an existing health condition;
 - f. Facilitate non-essential hearings by permitting access to the Court by utilizing telephonic and video technology.
 - g. Implement the attached Phase-In of court operations as set forth in attached Exhibit A.
8. The judges of Wells County request that the Indiana Supreme Court, under the authority of Ind. Admin. R. 17, declare that an emergency still exists in Wells County, and enter emergency orders for Wells County directing and allowing the Courts and Clerk of Wells County to alter, modify, and suspend necessary procedures affecting time limits and statutory deadlines, limit access of the public to the court and ensure the orderly and fair administration of justice while protecting the public and court personal from exposure and transmission of a dangerous virus.
9. As such, we request the Indiana Supreme Court:

- (1) Authorize the tolling, beginning March 17, 2020, and until July 31, 2020, of all laws, rules, and procedures setting time limits in all criminal, juvenile, CHINS, domestic relations, mental health, and all civil matters before the courts of Wells County;
- (2) Beginning March 17, 2020, and until July 31, 2020, authorize the Wells County courts, in their discretion, to continue all hearings they deem non-essential.
- (3) Authorizing the use of telephonic or video technology in lieu of in-person appearances, unless a litigant's due process rights would be violated.
- (4) Considering (a) the existence of flu or flu-like symptoms in an attorney, self-represented litigant, or witness expected to testify; (b) exposure of such individuals to anyone who has or may have COVID-19; (c) status of such individuals in a high risk category; (d) status of such individuals who have quarantined, voluntarily or involuntarily; or, (e) status of such individuals who may need to provide childcare to their children to constitute "good cause" to either appear remotely or continue a court setting, to the extent possible without violating statutory or constitutional rights.
- (5) Allowing any attorney wishing to appear remotely (e.g. through teleconference systems, etc.) for any status conference or non-evidentiary hearing without further leave of court up filing a "Notice of Remote Appearance" in the court which the matter will be heard.
- (6) Subject to applicable Constitutional limitations, limiting spectators (other than parties to the litigation, their attorneys, and any necessary witnesses) in courtrooms to the extent necessary to provide adequate social distancing.
- (7) Posting of signage at all public entry points to judicial facilities advising individuals not to enter the building if they have:
 - a. Visited China, Iran, South Korea, any European countries, or any other high-risk countries identified by the CDC in the previous 14 days;
 - b. Resided with or been in close contact with someone who has been in any of those countries within the previous 14 days;

- c. Traveled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission;
 - d. Been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
 - e. Been diagnosed with or had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
 - f. A fever, cough, or shortness of breath;
- and directing bailiffs or court security officer to deny entrance to individuals attempting to enter in violation of these protocols.
- (8) Allowing individuals with legitimate court business to stay home and request a continuance by phone if they are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or in a high-risk category.

Respectfully submitted

May 29, 2020.



Honorable Kenton W. Kiracofe
Judge, Wells Circuit Court



Honorable Andrew K. Antrim
Judge, Wells Superior Court