

COVID-19 and Jury Service

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What precautions are being taken in the courts to keep the public safe?

- Face masks and/or face coverings will be required for everyone (with very limited exceptions, including for medical need).
- Jurors reporting to the courthouse will be subject to COVID-19 screening, which may include temperature screenings.
- Social distancing will be maintained throughout the entire jury trial process, beginning at the courthouse entrance each day.
- Signage and social distancing reminders are posted throughout court facilities.
- Sanitizing stations will be available throughout the courthouse for juror use.
- There will be capacity limits on elevators.
- Common areas in the jury assembly room such as vending machines, break rooms, etc. may be off-limits or closed.

2. What precautions will be taken during trials to keep jurors safe?

- Disposable juror badges will be used.
- Fewer jury trials will be in session at any one time.
- Fewer jurors will be summoned.
- Jurors may report on a staggered schedule in order to reduce the number of jurors summoned at any one time.
- Once in the courtroom, jurors would be seated with 6 feet of social distance between them.
- Jury deliberations will occur in larger space to allow for social distancing.

3. Will I have to report in person for jury service?

Jurors summoned for petit jury duty will participate in jury selection virtually via video. Jurors selected for the jury will have to report to a courthouse for the trial. All in-person proceedings will follow strict social distancing guidelines and safety precautions.

Grand jury selections are conducted by video. Grand juries may meet virtually (by video) or in person with precautions including face masks and social distancing.

4. Will the New Jersey Courts be providing face masks for jurors?

The Judiciary will provide you with a face mask for use during jury service.

Jurors selected to serve on a jury will be provided a clear plastic face mask.

5. How many people will be permitted in the courtroom during trials?

Fewer jurors will be summoned to court on any given day to allow for appropriate safeguards, including social distancing.

6. How can the public view ongoing trials?

In some cases, trials will be livestreamed. Members of the public interested in a particular trial will be offered alternative methods of observing the jury trial remotely, including via video in an adjacent courtroom.

7. I am scheduled to report for jury service but am experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been around someone who recently tested positive. What should I do?

If you are sick or have respiratory symptoms, a fever or a cough, or have been around someone who recently tested positive, DO NOT report for jury service. Contact the Jury Management Office in your county.

8. I recently traveled outside of New Jersey. Should I still report for jury service?

If you recently visited a state that is subject to the 14-day quarantine travel advisory set by the Governor of New Jersey, or plan to visit one of the states on the advisory list in the near future, please let jury management office staff know prior to reporting.

9. I was recently summoned for jury service but have an underlying medical condition or live with someone who has an underlying medical condition. What should I do?

If you have questions about reporting in person for jury service, contact the Jury Management Office for information about how to request to defer (reschedule) your service. Deferral requests are subject to standard protocols and approval by the Assignment Judge or their designee.

10. I am unable to find childcare during jury service. What should I do?

Jurors may request to defer their service to a later date by contacting their summoning Jury Management Office. Childcare requests are subject to standard protocols and approval by the Assignment Judge or their designee.

11. Will I be notified if someone tests positive for COVID-19 during my service?

Where the Judiciary (rather than a health department) is aware of an actual or presumptive risk of COVID-19 in an in-person jury proceeding, the Judiciary will notify the jurors and any other participants who are or may be at risk.