



STATE OF MICHIGAN
EATON COUNTY TRIAL COURTS

56th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT
EATON COUNTY PROBATE COURT
56A DISTRICT COURT
1045 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813
517-543-7500
www.eatoncounty.org

Hon. Janice K Cunningham
Chief Judge, Circuit Court Judge

Hon. John D. Maurer
Circuit Court Judge

Hon. Thomas K. Byerley
Probate Court Judge

Hon. Julie A. O'Neill
District Court Judge

Hon. Kelly E. Morton
District Court Judge

Amy M. Etzel
Trial Court Administrator

Kathleen M. Brooks
Deputy Trial Court Administrator

Administrative Order

C56: 2021-05J, rescind 2021-03J

D56A: 2021-07J, rescind 2021-06J

P23: 2021-04J, rescind 2021-03J

Plan to Return to Full Capacity – Phase Two (Forward)

IT IS ORDERED:

In accordance with Administrative Order 2020-14, effective May 6, 2020, and upon approval of the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO), the chief judge of the Eaton County Trial Courts has consulted with the local health department and determined that gating criteria is satisfied as of May 11, 2021. Specifically:

1. There have been no COVID-19 confirmed or suspected cases in the court facility within a 14-day period and,
 2. There is 7-day average of 15% or less for positive tests as a percent of total tests; and There is a downward trajectory of documented cases within a 14-day period.
 3. State and local orders restricting movement and/or requiring shelter-in-place have been rescinded or limited and the SCAO has determined that existing orders would not prevent the court from implementing Phase Two requirements; and,
 4. The chief judge has consulted with health authorities and confirmed that regional health care facilities are able to treat all patients without crisis care; and,
 5. The chief judge has consulted with health authorities and confirmed that there is no evidence of COVID-19 rebound within the local community and no need to implement additional social distancing measures based upon a resurgence of infections in the local area.
- A. In order to protect the health and safety of employees and the public, the Eaton County Trial Courts have enacted the following protections:
1. Employees will self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms. Employees who feel sick or have any COVID-19 symptoms will not report to work. Employees who feel

- sick or display symptoms at work will be sent home.¹
2. Court employees have been surveyed and those employees who have self-identified as a vulnerable employee and unable to return to work have been offered appropriate accommodations, including the ability to work remotely if their job lends itself to remote work.
 3. Employees will be encouraged to work remotely where feasible to facilitate social distancing among on-site staff.
 4. Face coverings for employees will be required in a manner consistent with the SCAO Return to Full Capacity Guide. The courts have taken the following steps to ensure proper social distancing and employee safety:
 - a. Placed physical barriers between workspaces that are not at least six feet apart.
 - b. Marked the floor in common spaces to indicate six-foot intervals.
 - c. Required employees to wear masks while in public spaces.
 - d. Provided PPE for all employees including masks, gloves, spray disinfectant and hand sanitizer.
 5. Employees will practice good hygiene through hand washing, frequent disinfecting of used items and surfaces, sneezing or coughing into a tissue or elbow, and avoiding touching their faces.
 6. Employees will not travel for nonessential court business.
 7. Quarantine and/or isolation requirements will be implemented consistent with the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and/or local public health officials.
 8. Employees have been trained regarding COVID-19. The training included good hygiene practices, updated personnel policies, and safety controls at the court facilities.
 9. Court facilities have posted signage emphasizing proper handwashing.
 10. Shared equipment will be cleaned and sanitized before each use. Examples of shared equipment include copiers, fax machines, and telephones used by more than one employee during a single shift or in consecutive shifts. This equipment should be wiped down with disinfectant or a disinfectant wipe between uses.

¹ Guidance on COVID-19 symptoms is evolving rapidly. The most up-to-date information about symptoms of COVID-19 are available on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.

11. The court is following the CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting if the facility is exposed to COVID-19.
 12. The court has developed a contact tracing policy and will implement contact tracing procedures after receiving notification that the court facility has had confirmed exposure to COVID-19. These procedures will help the court identify and notify individuals who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and will identify exposure locations that need to be cleaned and disinfected pursuant to CDC guidelines.
- B. The Eaton County Trial Courts are maintaining the following measures related to public entry into court facilities:
- I. The public will be asked to self-screen using posted screening questions prior to entering the court building. Screening questions will include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Do you have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees?
 - b. Do you have a cough or worsening cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason)?
 - c. Do you have shortness of breath?

OR

 - d. Do you have at least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - e. Have you had any close contact in the last 14 days with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 and you are not fully vaccinated?
 - f. Have you traveled internationally in the last 14 days?

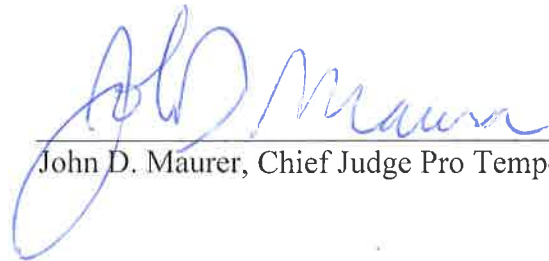
Any individual responding “yes” to the screening questions will not be allowed to enter the courthouse. Screening personnel will notify the court of any individual who does not pass the screening procedure. If the person came to the court to file documents, the court will accept those documents for filing. If the person was scheduled to appear as a party or witness in a court proceeding, the court will work to reschedule the hearing/trial as a remote proceeding or to a future date when the person may pass courthouse screening. The court must provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to any personnel responsible for in-person screening.

- C. In order to facilitate the business of the courts, the courts are using the following measures related to court proceedings:
1. Proceedings will be conducted virtually to the maximum extent possible, consistent with Administrative Order No. 2020-6.
 2. In-person court proceedings will be allowed on a limited basis. Persons appearing for in-person proceedings must adhere to social distancing requirements and be able to pass the self-screening questions. Courtroom capacity will be limited based on social distancing requirements. Proceedings will be scheduled to conform to this limitation. Face coverings will be required for court in a manner consistent with the SCAO Return to Full Capacity Guide.
 3. Members of the public are encouraged to use the locked drop box located inside the front doors of the courthouse for payments and court filings to limit courthouse capacity. The drop box contents will be processed timely.
 4. Off-site visits with probationers and clients will resume.
 5. Large venues and common areas in the courthouse (e.g. waiting areas, sit-down dining, etc.) will be open for use based on social distancing requirements. Members of the public are required to wear facemasks to the extent they can medically tolerate it. They will be provided by the court prior to entry.
 6. Pursuant to MCR 8.110(C), members of the public or staff who refuse to wear required face coverings or adhere to social distancing requirements may be asked to leave the court facility.
 7. Any member of the public who is asked to leave the court facility must be offered an opportunity to conduct court business virtually, attend court proceedings virtually, file documents in an alternative manner, or confer with court administration to determine alternate arrangements for accessing the court.

The Eaton County Trial Courts are regularly consulting with local public health officials to monitor local public health conditions related to COVID-19.

Date: _____

MAY 12, 2021



John D. Maurer, Chief Judge Pro Tempore