

Courthouse Safety Precautions

The Alaska Court System is taking many precautions to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 spread in courthouses.

Visitor Precaution

- Unvaccinated visitors should wear face coverings at all times, unless 
 - Under 2 years old, or
 - Have a mental or physical disability that prevents you from wearing a mask, or
 - Have a medical condition in which wearing a face covering makes it hard for you to breathe.
- Do not enter courthouses if:
 - Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 10 days, or
 - Have had close contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 in the past 14 days and been directed to quarantine, or
 - Feel feverish or have chills, or
 - Have a new (last 72 hours) persistent cough or difficulty breathing.
-  Stay at least 6 feet from anyone else, except if in your household.
- Hand sanitizer  is available, including new hand sanitizer dispenser stations.
- Remote customer service and participation in most hearings is offered over the phone or video.
- Able to file documents by email.
- Able to pay filing fees and post bail online by credit card.

Courtrooms

- All participants (jurors, parties, lawyers, witnesses, victim, judge, court staff) who are unvaccinated must wear face coverings, except the judge may allow a witness to temporarily remove during testimony or for a defendant to be identified if other protective measures are followed.
- All participants must be 6+ feet apart from others, except lawyers may sit next to their clients. Jurors will be spread throughout the courtroom.
- Smaller groups of jurors called at one time.
- Only essential participants allowed in the courtroom – judge, clerk, parties, lawyers, victim, jurors, witness, interpreter, law enforcement.
- Courtrooms have Plexiglas screens where individuals need to speak or testify (judge, clerk, parties, lawyers, witness).
- Participants limit movement in the courtroom.
- Public and media can observe through remote methods – telephonic or video.

Cleaning

- Disinfecting wipes available for cleanings of tables, microphones, and Plexiglas screens throughout the day and between witnesses.
- Cleaning of courtrooms at end of every trial day.
- MERV-13 filters have been installed in many courthouses when possible.



Employees

- Employees are required to quarantine if:
 - Have positive COVID-19 diagnosis
 - Are sick with COVID-19 symptoms,
 - Have had possible COVID-19 exposure and are unvaccinateduntil they meet the return-to-work guidelines created with the assistance of DHSS medical officials.
- Unvaccinated employees must wear face coverings when unable to maintain social distancing, assisting the public at a customer service counter, or in elevators or multi-stall restrooms.
- Employee workstations are 6+ feet from each other.
- Employees are provided sanitizing supplies – hand sanitizer and wipes.



Read [the Courthouse Visitor Alert](#), [COVID-19 related orders](#), and [Conducting Jury Trials During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#).