



DELAWARE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
117 NORTH UNION STREET, LEVEL 500
DELAWARE, OHIO 43015

DAVID M. GORMLEY, JUDGE
JAMES P. SCHUCK, JUDGE

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March 17, 2020
Jury Service Update

The judges of the court's general division are doing all that they can to minimize the need for jurors to come to the courthouse during the next several weeks.

Given that some cases at the court involve issues that must be resolved promptly, though, some jurors may be needed between now and the end of May. We understand the special burden that jury service might pose in the next few weeks, and we will look at every alternative before we ask jurors to report to the courthouse.

Please understand that the court plays a key role in our local justice system, however, and jurors may be asked to help the court stay up and running even during the pandemic. Courts are an essential part of the system of government developed by the founders of our country and of our state, and we cannot toss aside the vital role that jurors play in that system, even when the legal system and so many other parts of our free society are under such great stress.

Any jurors who test positive for the new coronavirus or who are exhibiting symptoms of the virus – a fever, a cough, or shortness of breath – should not report for jury service. Instead, those persons and any others who would like to be excused from jury service should send to the court a written request to be excused. The judges will carefully consider each of those requests and will do their best to protect public health and safety while still fulfilling the court's duty to keep the justice system in Delaware County functioning effectively.

If you are asked to report for jury service before the pandemic subsides, we will do our best to help keep each of you as far apart from each other and from other persons in the courthouse as we reasonably can. And we are working with the county health department to perhaps station a trained staffer from that office here at the courthouse on the first day of any jury trials in the weeks ahead.

We are hoping to purchase protective gear that we could make available to those jurors who would like to use it, though the limited supply of some items and the urgent need for those items in local medical facilities means that we cannot promise the availability of protective gear at the courthouse on any given trial date.



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If you are concerned about touching a pen that other jurors might use during a trial, you might consider bringing your own pen if you are asked to report for jury service.

Also, we are doing our best to keep door handles, elevator buttons, countertops, and other surfaces in the courthouse clean, but you are certainly welcome to bring your own hand sanitizer, gloves, and disinfecting wipes if you choose. Courthouse restrooms contain ample supplies of soap.

Again, we know that our jurors – like everyone in this and other communities around the world – are coping with unprecedented difficulties at home and in the workplace as the pandemic rages. We are facing them too, even as we try to keep the court operating as the law requires.

We will not ask you to come to court for a trial unless absolutely necessary. If you are asked to serve in that way in the midst of the ongoing public-health crisis that has affected us all, we hope that many of you will be able to fulfill that responsibility proudly and without hesitation, just as we are trying to fulfill ours by keeping the courthouse doors open despite the daily challenges of doing so.