

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

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<u>March 14, 2020</u> <u>General Division COVID-19 Update</u>

We are doing our best to ensure that our court continues to function effectively even as we try to protect the health of the public and our staff members.

Because many of our cases involve persons who are in the county jail or in state prisons, we must continue to hold some hearings and even some trials. We are doing everything we can, though, to minimize the need for jurors, attorneys, and others to visit the courthouse during the next several weeks.

We encourage attorneys and persons with cases at the court to limit courthouse visits and to utilize the court's e-filing system.

We are limiting the number of jury trials that we will be conducting between now and the end of April.

We are hoping to conduct by telephone or by videoconference many hearings that would in the past have been conducted in our courtrooms.

We are delaying some hearings and canceling others to reduce the number of persons who will be coming through the courthouse in the weeks ahead.

We are receptive to requests from attorneys and unrepresented parties for delays of nonessential hearings.

We will aim to resolve as many motions as we can without the need for in-court appearances.

We will post additional information on our court's website as circumstances warrant, and we welcome phone calls or emails about upcoming hearings and about conditions at the courthouse.

We appreciate your understanding as we work through the many difficult decisions that we are making as we strive to keep our local justice system operating during these uncertain and stressful times.