

COVID-19 Health Protocols for Jury Trials
Collin County Courts

Effective Date: August 1, 2021 – October 1, 2021

Courts in Collin County will continue to follow the latest guidance from the Texas Department of State Health Services, available at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>

Being mindful of the health and safety of jurors, litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, Collin County will provide and recommend the following additional protective measures for jury trials:

Juror and Court Staff Health

1. Masks will be available when jurors enter the courthouse, or jurors may wear their own. Until the final jury is actually selected, seated and sworn, everyone appearing as a prospective juror will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
2. Hand sanitizer will be available to jurors at multiple locations inside the courthouse and Central Jury Room.
3. Any participant who requests to socially distance will be accommodated.
4. Each court will determine appropriate health protocols within each courtroom.

Vulnerable Populations

5. Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy are considered to be vulnerable populations.
6. Vulnerable populations who are scheduled for jury service may contact the jury services clerks and reschedule their jury service for a future time to be determined by the juror.

COVID Notification

7. Every participant is required to contact the jury clerks if the participant:
 - a. Has COVID-19;
 - b. Knows of another participant who has a fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea; or
 - c. Has recently been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19 or exhibiting the symptoms described above.

8. Jurors may contact the jury clerks to reschedule their service if they:
 - a. Have been diagnosed by a licensed physician as having coronavirus anytime within the past 30 days;
 - b. Are actively caring for a family member or loved one who has tested positive for the Coronavirus; or
 - c. Are now in self-quarantine status and that status will continue during the date on their jury summons.

A juror letter addressing jurors' upcoming jury service in the era of Coronavirus will be posted on the Jury Services website for Collin County, as well as the websites for the County and District Courts.