

Serving in a Coronavirus World - A message to our jurors

In 2020 the world was introduced to a new contagious virus: Coronavirus Disease or COVID-19. Due to the previous declaration of a national emergency, the Federal Court suspended all jury matters temporarily until protocols could be put into place to protect our citizens and staff as well as administering justice. We are closely following, monitoring and reinforcing the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local and U.S. health authorities and have taken strict precautionary measures to limit the potential spread of the virus while also ensuring that we are able to continue with the essential judicial proceedings.

We are mindful of the many challenges that our citizens face during the time of national emergency. We are extremely grateful that because of the courage and sacrifice of so many individuals, we can continue the administration of justice through the Federal Court system. We are now asking you to continue to fulfill your civic duty by reporting for jury service when summoned.

The Federal Court takes the public health and your safety very seriously. To prevent the risk of infection, we have implemented aggressive policies and are taking extra precautions that include frequently sanitizing counter tops, tables, and doorknobs; having hand sanitizer available; and offering large spaces to accommodate social distancing at a minimum of 6 feet. Upon entering the building, we have self-check stands for you to check your temperature. We are committed to the safety and well-being of our jurors and our Nation. Our jury team continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation in real time and is responding as conditions evolve.

We also understand some individuals may be unable to serve at this time due to Coronavirus related issues. Requests for excuse will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If it is necessary to defer/postpone your jury service, you will be notified to attend on a new date. **ALL** requests to be excused or to be postponed **MUST BE IN WRITING** by doing so on your questionnaire, through ejuror or written letter to the Court and should be submitted **IMMEDIATELY** if:

- You were diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not recovered;
- You have had contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 who has not completed a quarantine period;
- You have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor or other medical provider; hospital or health agency and are still within the that time of self-quarantine;
- You have been experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or are presently suffering from an elevated body temperature or chills;
- You are a person at a high risk of infection;
- You are a person living with others who may be at a high risk of infection.

We thank you for your patience and for your cooperation as we work together to live safely. Stay safe and healthy.

WE CAN NOT EXCUSE OR DEFER YOU OVER THE PHONE. IF YOU ARE REQUESTING AN EXCUSE OR DEFERRAL, YOU MUST DO SO BY COMPLETING YOUR QUALIFYING QUESTIONNAIRE WITH A REQUEST. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IF IT HAS BEEN GRANTED OR DENIED.