



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

March 18, 2020

Thomas G. Saylor, JD, LL.M.  
Chief Justice, Pennsylvania Supreme Court  
601 Commonwealth Avenue  
P.O. Box 61260  
Suite 1500  
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Dear Chief Justice Saylor:

Governor Wolf and his administration are committed to doing their utmost to safeguard the health and welfare of Pennsylvania citizens during the present public health crisis. Accordingly, we are advising that additional protective measures are necessary to further restrict the amount of person-to-person contact and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

While recognizing the great concern for access to justice in Pennsylvania, we urge the court system to consider statewide closure of the courts, except for essential services, for a period of 14 days. We anticipate that some court business could be conducted remotely during this period, consistent with constitutional limitations, as is presently occurring in some parts of the Commonwealth. Such a closure would be consistent with the action that the Governor has now taken with respect to the executive branch and the recommendations announced on Monday, March 17, 2020 for businesses and organizations across the Commonwealth.

The administration urges that such drastic measures are now necessary to protect the health and lives of Pennsylvanians.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RL Levine'.

Rachel L. Levine, MD  
Secretary of Health