

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: All Court Employees
FROM: Patrick R. Grimm, Esq.
District Court Administrator
DATE: April 20, 2020
RE: Masks and Face Coverings

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'PRG', is placed over the printed name of Patrick R. Grimm.

Governor Wolf recently recommended that Pennsylvanians wear a mask any time they leave their homes and are in public. Additionally, Secretary of Health Levine mandated that workers and customers at businesses in Pennsylvania that are continuing to operate must wear masks.

While that mandate does not apply to government/courts, the 27th Judicial District will follow the spirit of that guidance. Beginning today, masks/face coverings must be worn in all public spaces and common areas of judicial facilities. In work areas, court employees should wear a mask or face covering. Masks can be removed when in private work areas if there is sufficient physical space to allow for social distancing. Use of gloves is also mandatory for court employees while handling money or mail.

It is important to remember that masks and gloves do not necessarily stop the spread of germs. Therefore, we ask that you think of three numbers: 6-20-100. 6 feet is the minimum amount of space for social distancing. 20 seconds is the least amount of time people should spend washing their hands with soap and water (and at least once per hour); use an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water is not available. 100° or higher is the temperature that you should stay home with and not come into work. As always, if you have other symptoms of COVID-19 or the flu, then stay home.

Members of the public will be required to wear a mask or face covering, except in cases of a medical condition or children under 2 years of age. For those who do not have a mask or face covering at the Courthouse or FCC, Sheriff's deputies will provide a disposable mask. Of course, access to judicial facilities will continue to be limited as it has for the past month, and we continue to encourage that all business needs be met remotely if possible.

As you can imagine, commercial masks are in short supply. We have a very limited supply of disposable masks that will be used primarily for the public. Therefore, we kindly ask that you bring whatever mask or face covering that are otherwise using when you are going out in public or to the store.

Information about masks and facial coverings, including how to make them, is available here: <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Stop-the-Spread.aspx>.

These are trying times – thank you for doing your part to keep our shared spaces safe and healthy.