



COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

NOTICE

September 10, 2021

CONTACT:

Prothonotary: 717-255-1661

Commonwealth Court COVID-19 Protocols for In-Person, Single-Judge Proceedings

Until further notice, the following COVID-19 mitigation protocols shall apply generally to in-person proceedings scheduled before a single judge that may be conducted in the Pennsylvania Judicial Center (PJC) in Harrisburg. The Court notes that the PJC provides (1) spacious facilities and generous elevator access to courtrooms; (2) an upgraded indoor ventilation system with germicidal UV light system; and (3) existing infrastructure to support livestreaming of court proceedings.

COVID-19 Protocols* – Because of the evolving public health guidance provided by the CDC and the State Department of Health concerning the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, **all persons entering the PJC for Commonwealth Court proceedings must note and adhere to the COVID-19 protocols put in place for the Court’s September 20-24, 2021 oral argument session to be conducted in person in Harrisburg (as revised and published September 10, 2021), with the following provisos:**

- At the discretion of the assigned judge, public access to proceedings may be achieved in person and/or through livestream broadcast, when appropriate. Courtrooms may be open to all counsel, witnesses, and observers, subject to capacity limits to maintain appropriate social distancing relative to counsel tables, the podium, the bench, and the gallery. Court criers and the Pennsylvania Capitol Police have complete discretion to restrict access to the courtroom to ensure social distancing. If the assigned judge does not open the courtroom to public access, the Court will livestream that proceeding and provide a link to the livestream that the Court will post on its website.

- All persons must follow all other posted COVID-19 protocols in the PJC and in the Commonwealth Court courtrooms and areas immediately adjacent thereto, **as well as any decorum order that may be entered in a particular matter.**

***At the discretion of the assigned judge, these protocols may be supplemented by a decorum order entered in a particular matter.**

Circumstances and guidance regarding COVID-19 protocols are subject to change. Accordingly, counsel, the public, and the media are advised to monitor individual case dockets and the Court's website for additional information and updates.