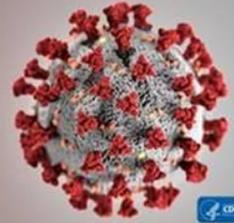


Updates on COVID-19 and Court Operations

What justices, judges and circuit court clerks need to know



CDC: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) ▪ Kentucky Public Health: [COVID-19](#) ▪ KCOJ: [COVID-19 and the Courts](#)

Update for March 17, 2020

Justices, Judges and Circuit Court Clerks:

Many of you have raised questions regarding your role in ordering individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 to self-quarantine. Last week I sent each of you a copy of the “Public Health Law Judicial Reference Guide for Kentucky Courts.” I have attached the Guide to this email and request that you familiarize yourself with it, particularly pages 69—71. I am also attaching the relevant portions of the Guide – Sections 4.11, 4.14, and 4.15—for quick reference. Please click on the following links to find the pertinent statutes and regulations related to this issue: [KRS 39A.100](#), [KRS 212.245](#), [902 KAR 2:030](#), and [902 KAR 2:050](#).

Sections 7.11, 7.12, 7.21, 7.22 and 7.23 of the Guide contain sample orders that have already proven helpful in Nelson County, where we had our first case of court-ordered quarantine. I have asked the Administrative Office of the Courts to work on converting these orders to a usable format. We hope to have those ready to send to you soon.

Circuit judges should expect to hear court actions relating to isolation and quarantine. All judges may receive search warrants from health department officials to authorize the temporary search and seizure required for involuntary testing.

From an administrative standpoint, I urge you all to consider using telephonic and remote video options when conducting hearings, particularly in matters relating to quarantine. In jurisdictions with more than one division of circuit court, I also urge you to consider appointing a single contact judge to oversee interactions with the local health department.

Thank you all for the leadership you continue to show during this uncertain time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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