



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

### **Update for April 8, 2020**

Justices, Judges, Circuit Court Clerks and Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel:

### **Social distancing more important than ever as COVID-19 cases expected to peak**

As we enter a critical time for COVID-19 cases in Kentucky and across the country, all Kentuckians must adhere to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Gov. Beshear to practice [social distancing](#) and [limit travel](#). This is especially true for employees and elected officials of the Kentucky Court of Justice, who have an ethical duty to manage their personal and professional contacts in a manner that maintains and promotes public confidence in the judicial system.

As I have mentioned in previous communications, the court system must continue to provide essential services to the public during the state of emergency. The Judicial Branch has taken exceptional steps to limit the number of employees in its offices and judicial centers each day to allow for greater social distancing and safer shared workspaces, including telecommuting options for eligible employees and a 50/50 flexible staffing schedule for court clerks' offices.

These efforts have allowed employees to remain in paid status while being healthy at home. Working a second job outside the home while in paid status is not acceptable and puts our Court of Justice family at further risk of exposure. As our governor reminds us every evening, you simply can't be doing that.

Public confidence in our court system is contingent upon all employees and elected officials remaining healthy and ready to carry out the business of the courts, whether it be from their offices or their homes. Your decisions and conduct outside of work can have an impact on your ability to do your job and maintain the safety of those you work with and those you serve. We cannot risk needlessly burdening the court system with illness by failing to follow recommended public health directives.

This state of emergency won't last forever and there are better days ahead. I appreciate your dedication during these trying times and encourage you to take great care to protect yourself, your family, your coworkers and the public from COVID-19.



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