



# COVID-19 and the Courts

## An update from Chief Justice Minton

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

### Update for July 31, 2020

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

### **Announcing changes to COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements for court personnel**

We continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 and make any changes necessary to protect court personnel and the public we serve. As cases surge in many states, including Kentucky, the AOC Department of Human Resources has updated the pandemic safety guidelines to be consistent with the latest developments.

We first issued the [COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements](#) guide on May 15 to prepare our elected officials and court employees to safely begin a phased reopening on June 1. Today we're providing an updated version to reflect two orders entered by the Supreme Court on July 27, [Administrative Order 2020-55](#) and [Administrative Order 2020-56](#). These orders provide requirements for court facilities and proceedings, address staffing concerns raised by circuit court clerks, and provide updates on the handling of jury trials and evictions.

The changes to the [COVID-19 Health and Safety Requirements](#) guide are summarized below:

- Updated the staffing section to remove the 50% staffing requirement and allow elected officials greater flexibility on in-person staffing based on certain factors, including the ability to maintain appropriate social distancing and divide staff into work teams. Page 2.
- References the guidance on what appointing authorities/supervisors are to do when an employee is exposed to or has tested positive for COVID-19. Page 5.
- Updated the travel alerts section to require court personnel to quarantine at home after traveling to states reporting a positive test rate of 15% or higher. Page 6.

We must all work together to protect our health and control the spread of this virus. If you have questions about these changes, please email the Department of Human Resources at [COJHR2@kycourts.net](mailto:COJHR2@kycourts.net). Thank you.



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