

From: Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr.
To: Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr.
Subject: Update From Chief Justice Minton 9-3-21: Judicial Branch expands vaccine leave, reinstates testing leave and COVID-19 sick leave
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 3:21:15 PM



CDC:

[COVID-19](#) • Kentucky Public Health: [COVID-19](#) • KCOJ: [COVID-19 and the Courts](#)

Update for September 3, 2021

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

Judicial Branch expands vaccine leave to include COVID-19 boosters, reinstates testing leave for all employees and COVID-19 sick leave for vaccinated employees

In light of the rapid spread of the Delta variant in Kentucky, the Supreme Court has expanded vaccine leave to include COVID-19 boosters and reinstated two hours of testing leave per month for all employees. The Supreme Court has also reestablished emergency sick leave – EMSL– for fully vaccinated employees who are required to isolate based on a positive COVID-19 test result. These measures mirror similar efforts by the Personnel Cabinet and are intended to help limit the spread of COVID-19, protect our vulnerable employees and provide a safer work environment for court personnel.

Per [Supreme Court Administrative Order 2021-32](#), employees may receive up to two hours of paid leave to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine dose, including a booster, if the vaccine is obtained during work hours on a day the employee is scheduled to work. Similarly, employees may claim one hour of COVID-19 testing leave to obtain a COVID-19 test up to two times per calendar month.

Vaccinated employees are authorized to receive EMSL if they are required to isolate based on a positive COVID-19 test result. The employee must provide proof of vaccination and proof of the positive test result to their appointing authority. Vaccinated employees are allowed up to 10 days of EMSL even if they have previously used 10 days of EMSL under last year’s EMSL authorization.

EMSL does not cover COVID-19 related leave to care for a dependent or child. It is only to be used for personal isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test result. Employees may be asked to provide a negative COVID-19 test result, a release from a physician or health department, or be symptom free for 72 hours before returning to work. For more details about eligibility, see [Order 2021-32](#).

If you have questions about EMSL or want to request approval to use emergency leave, please email PositiveCovidTest@kycourts.net.

We strongly encourage those who have not already been vaccinated to do so for their health and safety and the protection of those they work with.

John D. Minton, Jr.
Chief Justice of Kentucky
Capitol Building
700 Capital Avenue, Room 231
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Telephone 502.564.4162

Kentucky Court of Justice Confidentiality Notice

This message and/or attachment is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or proprietary work product. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized employee, agent or representative of the intended recipient, do not read, copy, retain or disseminate this message or any attachment. Do not forward this message and attachment without the express written consent of the sender. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete all copies of the message and any attachment. Transmission or misdelivery shall not constitute waiver of any applicable legal privilege.