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## Update for May 19, 2020

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

### **Supreme Court provides guidance on jury trials as courts plan to gradually expand operations starting June 1**

Last Friday, the Supreme Court issued [Administrative Order 2020-39](#), which highlighted the health and safety requirements for expanding court operations starting June 1. As a follow-up to that order, the Supreme Court will offer specific guidance on other court matters over the next few days.

Today the Supreme Court has provided directives on jury trials in Administrative Order 2020-40, dated May 19, 2020, and effective June 1, 2020. You can find the complete order [here](#) and highlights below:

- Jury trials shall be postponed and rescheduled for no sooner than August 1, 2020.
- Grand jury proceedings may begin effective June 1, 2020.
- Cases where the 60-day period in RCr 5.22(3) or an extension thereof was tolled by operation of Administrative Order 2020-28 must be presented to the grand jury on or before July 30, 2020.
- Existing grand jury panels may be extended at the discretion of the court, subject to the 20-day limitation set out in AP Part II, Sec. 19(3).
- If an existing grand jury panel cannot be extended, the order provides guidance on how to orient a new jury panel.
- Jurors who are ill, caring for someone who is ill, in a high-risk category, unable to wear a facial covering, or who will suffer further economic loss as a result of jury service shall have their service postponed or excused.
- Strict health and safety requirements – including mandatory use of facial coverings by jurors, social distancing and disinfecting – must be followed for all grand jury proceedings.

The Supreme Court will address other legal matters, such as evictions, in subsequent orders as our three Reopening Task Forces continue to meet and make recommendations.

Thank you for your ongoing flexibility and patience as we work to ensure the court system resumes in-person services in the safest manner possible. Please continue to email your questions to [covid19@kycourts.net](mailto:covid19@kycourts.net) and find updates at [COVID-19 and the Courts](#).



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