



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

Update for January 13, 2021

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

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel

Many of us are watching with anticipation as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are distributed in Kentucky and across the nation. The [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [Kentucky Department for Public Health](#) recommend that individuals 16 and older be vaccinated. While the Kentucky Court of Justice will not require court personnel to take the vaccine, we strongly encourage you to be vaccinated to protect yourselves, your co-workers and the public we serve.

Vaccine Distribution Schedule

We continue to encourage public health officials to make the vaccine available to all court officials and employees as quickly as possible. Gov. Beshear has advised me that KCOJ personnel have been designated as Phase 1 C essential workers and he estimates that we will have access to vaccinations in late February to early March. Anyone over age 70 will be eligible to receive the vaccine in Phase 1 B when it's available in their community.

To support this effort, the Supreme Court has authorized two hours of paid leave for each dose of the vaccine for all KCOJ employees who receive a vaccination during their regular work hours. You can find additional information on when an employee will be eligible to claim this leave in [Administrative Order 2121-03](#), which replaces Administrative Order 2020-66.

You can find Kentucky's vaccine distribution plan [here](#).

Continuing Remote Court Operations

Until the vaccine is more widely available to members of the public, the majority of court proceedings will continue to be conducted remotely per the Supreme Court's [Administrative Order 2021-01](#) and [Administrative Order 2021-02](#).

Guidelines on Safe Return to Work

As a reminder, the Department of Human Resources has updated its guidance for COVID-19 recommended actions and how to assess when a KCOJ employee can safely return to work after being exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19. There are revised definitions for “isolation,” “close contact” and “quarantining.” You can find these changes in the following resources:

- [COVID-19 Recommended Actions Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Returning to Work Quick Reference Guide](#)
- [COVID-19 Return to Work Flowchart](#)

High-Risk Employees

Under [Administrative Order 2121-03](#), high-risk work alternatives and Special Emergency Directed Leave will no longer be authorized once both doses of the vaccine are made available to KCOJ employees. Employees at high risk for severe illness who were previously approved for a high-risk work alternative and/or SEDL should receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to them to ensure they can safely return to their previously assigned workstation.

We’ll continue to provide regular updates and you can learn more by visiting [Kentucky's vaccine webpage](#) or calling the 24-hour hotline at 800-722-5725.



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.