

## **COURTHOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS**

To minimize the risks of COVID-19 transmission, the following policies are in effect until further notice:

The number of people, other than staff and attorneys, permitted in the building at any given time will be limited to:

- 10 people for the Circuit Court courtroom
- 8 people for the District Court courtroom
- 1 person for the Register of Wills Office

All others will be required to remain outside until instructed to enter by the security officers. Priority will be given to litigants, witnesses and victims.

The number of people permitted in other areas, such as restrooms or the elevator, will be posted on the door.

In addition to standard security screening, everyone entering the building must:

- Complete a health screening form;
- Have their temperature checked; and,
- Sanitize their hands

While in the building, proper social distancing will be observed. Pay attention to distancing indicators and always maintain a minimum of 6 feet between yourself and others.

Masks/Face Coverings are required in all public areas of the building – except for those actively participating in a hearing.

The building will be closed from 12:00PM to 1:15PM for cleaning.

Hand sanitizing stations are located throughout the building.

Gloves are available at sanitizing stations.

## INDIVIDUALS AT INCREASED RISK

The courts will make every effort to reduce the risk of infection to those most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19. This could include scheduling a case on a limited docket, allowing remote appearance, or any other appropriate measures.

Accordingly, if you are in a group that you believe places you are greater risk from exposure to COVID-19 (i.e. over a certain age or having an underlying medical condition), the court will give every consideration to appropriate accommodations.

If you are a litigant who is represented by an attorney, you should have your attorney file a motion with the court. If you are a juror, witness, self-represented litigant, attorney or otherwise need access to the courthouse, you should contact the court directly for further information and instructions.

FALURE TO OBSERVE THESE QUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE BUILDING, A FINDING OF CONTEMPT OR OTHER SANCTIONS.

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Harris P. Murphy  
Administrative Judge  
Circuit Court for Kent County

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John E. Nunn, III  
Judge of the District Court  
of Maryland for Kent County