



## **HOWARD & CARROLL COUNTIES' PHASE IV REOPENING**

**Effective August 31, 2020, The District Court of Maryland District Ten will begin Phase IV of our five phased and COVID Emergency Progressive Reopening Plan. All matters in Phases I, II and III as well as the following will be heard:**

### **Criminal and Traffic**

- All criminal matters
- Minor traffic matters
- Begin scheduling dockets that begin during Phase V for:
  - Red Light
  - Parking
  - Speed camera
  - School bus
  - Other civil citations including previously postponed matters

### **Civil**

- All civil matters

### **Landlord/Tenant**

- Failure to pay rent

### **Problem-solving Courts**

- Fully Operational

**In addition to ensure the health and safety of all:**

## **SAFETY PROTOCOL**

All persons entering the secured side of the courthouse will be required to answer the screening questions, have his or her temperature taken, and wear a mask. If an individual is denied access, they will be required to contact the court for the scheduling of their matter. Any person arriving at court more than fifteen minutes

before his or her scheduled hearing time may be asked to remain outside until fifteen minutes before the scheduled start time.

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

To the extent reasonably practicable, uniform social distancing of six feet will be instituted in all areas of the courthouse building, including but not limited to, public common areas, elevators, restrooms, conference and meeting rooms, courtrooms. Floor markings (tape or decals) have been placed at various locations for social distancing. The Courtroom benches and carpet have also been marked where litigants may sit or stand while awaiting each case. It is strongly suggested that only testifying witnesses, parties, and attorneys enter the courthouse. Access will not be restricted; however litigants are encouraged not to bring unnecessary persons to court. Litigants or witnesses will not be permitted to wait in the hallways or clerk's office.

## **WEARING MASKS**

Face masks (**covering both nose and mouth**) continue to be required in all public areas, including, but not limited to the following: when delivering mail throughout the courthouse; during all court proceedings; all bailiffs shall wear masks at the security screening station. The Court, to the extent available, will provide single-use masks for anyone who must enter the courthouse and who is not in possession of a mask or other nose and mouth covering. If anyone refuses to wear the appropriate face covering, they will be denied entry into and/or removed from the building.

## **FILING CASE DOCUMENTS**

Case documents should be filed electronically utilizing the Maryland Electronic Courts (MDEC) program. If filing electronically is not possible for any litigant, filing should be done through the physical drop box located in the main lobby of the courthouse during operating hours until further notice.