

## COVID-19

The Judges of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court General Division met Wednesday, March 11, to discuss the Court's ongoing response to COVID-19. The Judges approved several actions:

The Court is collaborating with the County Sheriff's Office, the County Prosecutor's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and MetroHealth Medical Center to address the potential for COVID-19 in the jail. Details of those plans are in discussion at this time. The goal is to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the jail, while still meeting the safety needs of the community.

The Common Pleas Court Judges have agreed to suspend jury trials for the next month, unless a person's Constitutional right to a speedy trial is at stake. This includes both criminal and civil trials. This status will be re-evaluated at the next Judges' Meeting on Wednesday, April 8.

The Common Pleas Court judges will conduct as many pre-trials by phone or video conferencing as possible.

Beginning Monday, March 16, not all citizens summoned for jury duty will report in person to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Justice Center. Instead, a telephone number will be provided for jurors to call to see if they need to report in person. Once that number and protocol are established, we will post the number on our website (CP.CUYAHOGACOUNTY.US) and Twitter feed. We will also provide it to the media.

The Court will continue to provide updates as necessary.

The County Board of Health recommends the following precautions be practiced by everyone in our community to minimize the spread of respiratory illness:

- If you have the flu, talk to your doctor about antiviral medications that can reduce flu severity;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially:

after using the restroom;

before eating;

after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;

- Cover your mouth and nose with a sleeve or tissue when sneezing or coughing, or sneeze into your elbow;
- Have hand sanitizer available with at least 60% alcohol and use frequently;
- Keep surfaces cleaned with an alcohol—based cleaning product;
- Stay home if you are ill;
- Stay alert for changing conditions announced by the Courts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend that people wear a face-mask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID—19. Facemasks should only be worn by people who show symptoms of COVID— 19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. It is important to preserve masks for hospital care and EMS transport personnel. More information can be found at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

According to health experts, most COVID—19 patients may experience flu-like symptoms, including a fever that can be treated at home with ibuprofen, drinking plenty of fluids, and rest. If symptoms arise, consider using any available telemedicine options with your medical provider to prevent the spread of illness to others. However, the County Board of Health recommends you visit a doctor, urgent care, or emergency department if you are sick—do not take chances.