

NORTH CAROLINA  
DURHAM COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO: 20R147

**PANDEMIC PHASE II ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

In light of the well-known situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, this order is entered for the purpose of reducing the danger of the spread of the coronavirus while moving cases through the court system as efficiently as possible. Therefore, until further notice, cases in the Durham County District courts will be handled in the following ways:

1. All cases will be assigned a specific time to appear in their designated courtrooms.
2. The Sheriff's deputies at the front entrance of the courthouse will be given a daily schedule. Upon entry into the courthouse, each person will state their name and the business they have within the courthouse. In an effort to reduce the danger of the spread of coronavirus and limit the number of people in the courthouse, only those people with whose business must be conducted in person will allowed in the courthouse. In addition, there is a maximum capacity set for each courtroom to ensure social distancing. The social distancing maximum capacity means, in cases appearing before the courts, only defendants, victims and witnesses that have been called to testify will be allowed in the courtroom unless there is space available in the designated area. After reviewing the scheduling for the day, if a Judge finds there is space available in the courtroom for those not involved in the scheduled cases, he or she in their discretion, will inform the bailiff.
3. All members of the general public will be required to wear some sort of facial mask when entering the courthouse. Everyone entering the courthouse will be subject to a temperature check. No one with a temperature above 100.4 will be allowed to enter the courthouse. If a temperature check indicates a fever, the person attempting to enter the courthouse shall sit for 5 minutes and a retake of the temperature will be conducted.
4. No one under the age of 16 will be allowed in the courthouse unless the child has been subpoenaed as a victim or witness that has been called in to testify.
5. Each courtroom will have a maximum capacity listed on each door. The maximum capacity (including personnel) and maximum number of cases scheduled at any time is as follows:

Traffic court: 20  
Courtroom 4D; 22  
Courtroom 4C: 19  
Courtroom 5A; 16  
Courtroom 5B: 16  
Courtroom 5C: 16  
Courtroom 5D: 12  
Courtroom 6A: 16  
Courtroom 6B; 16

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6. In scheduling cases, judges may require that the number of cases scheduled at one time may be less than the maximum allowed per courtroom in order to ensure a seat is available for each person and social distancing measures can be maintained.
7. Bailiffs should ensure that not one is entering the courtroom without a marked seat being available.
8. Each person appearing in court should sanitize his/her hands before entering the courtroom and again before signing or touching any papers that are to be handed to others in the courtroom.

This the 28<sup>th</sup> \_ day of May, 2020.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Evans".

PAT EVANS  
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
DURHAM COUNTY