



**TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
WAKE COUNTY  
PO BOX 351, RALEIGH, NC 27602  
T 919.792.4242

May 29, 2020  
Amended June 19, 2020

To: 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Courthouse Personnel and Members of the Public

Fr: Hon. Paul Ridgeway, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Hon. Robert Rader, Chief District Court Judge  
Hon. Lorrin Freeman, District Attorney  
Hon. Blair Williams, Clerk of Superior Court  
Hon. Chris Graves, Chief Magistrate  
Mr. Chuck Caldwell, Public Defender  
Ms. Kellie Myers, Trial Court Administrator

### **COVID-19 Public Safety Policies - 10th Judicial District**

In anticipation of expanding court operations in the 10th Judicial District on June 1, 2020, the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and the Chief District Court Judge, in consultation with the 10th Judicial District Emergency Response Team, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and state and local health officials, establish the following safety policies. These policies are implemented pursuant to the guidance and authority of the Order of the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court dated May 21, 2020.

These policies shall apply to the Judicial Facilities of the 10th Judicial District (Wake County). These policies shall remain in effect until further notice and are subject to change at any time to reflect current medical and safety advice and guidance.

These policies are a baseline. Hiring authorities, judicial officials and courthouse security personnel have discretion to require more robust safety policies, as needed, to meet specific needs and circumstances. Further, these policies are not a substitute for personal responsibility -- the Center for Disease Control recommends that every person take affirmative measures to avoid contracting COVID-19 by: knowing how it spreads, washing hands often, avoiding close contact, covering mouth and nose with cloth face covering when around others, covering coughs and sneezes, cleaning and disinfecting, and monitoring your health.

Anyone denied entry into Judicial Facilities for failure to comply with these policies or because they have symptoms of or exposure to COVID-19 as set out above, should contact his/her attorney or the court for additional information. The Wake Court Hotline may be reached by telephone (919-792-4242) or email ([WakeCourtHotline@nccourts.org](mailto:WakeCourtHotline@nccourts.org)).

*Definitions:*

**Judicial Facilities:** The Wake County Justice Center, the Wake County Courthouse, and those portions of the Hammond Road Detention Facility utilized for judicial functions.

**Courthouse Personnel:** Persons working within Judicial Facilities, including judges and staff, magistrates and staff, clerks of court and staff, public defenders and staff, district attorneys and staff, court reporters, interpreters, deputy sheriff / law enforcement personnel assigned to Judicial Facilities and security personnel assigned to Judicial Facilities.

**POLICIES REGARDING SOCIAL DISTANCING**

1. At all times while within Judicial Facilities, all persons, including Courthouse Personnel and members of the public, shall:
  - a. Comply with signage and markings in courtrooms and common areas denoting six-foot social distancing spacing and requirements;
  - b. Comply with maximum public occupancy limits established for each courtroom;
  - c. Limit in-person interaction at distances less than six feet with others to only those instances where necessary; where such in-person interaction is necessary, use reasonable measures to keep yourself and others safe; and
  - d. Abide by any courtroom-specific health and safety instructions as established by judicial officials or courtroom security personnel.
  
2. In addition to the above, Courthouse Personnel should:
  - a. Refrain from large in-person social gatherings (birthday celebrations, retirement parties, baby showers, etc.) in Judicial Facilities; and
  - b. Refrain from inviting social visitors / guests to Judicial Facilities who are not otherwise conducting court business; and
  - c. Refrain from bringing children to Judicial Facilities.

**POLICIES REGARDING MASKS / FACE COVERINGS**

*\*This amendment goes into effect at 4:00 p.m. on June 19, 2020*

1. In conformance with the City of Raleigh's Emergency Proclamation of June 17, 2020, all persons, including members of the public and Courthouse Personnel, are required to wear a clean face covering upon entering any Judicial Facility and at all times while within Judicial Facilities, unless one of the following exceptions apply.
  
2. Face coverings are not required:
  - a. For people whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering;
  - b. For those who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition;
  - c. While dining or eating or consuming food or beverage;
  - d. In private, individual offices provided that no other person is within six feet;
  - e. When complying with directions of law enforcement officers; or

- f. While conducting official business where the wearing of a face covering impedes communications, or is not feasible, or as directed by the presiding judge or judicial official;
3. A “face covering” is defined as one recognized by the Center for Disease Control or the City of Raleigh’s Emergency Proclamation of June 17, 2020, as helpful in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 in public settings. Medical or single use medical-type face masks are appropriate. If fabric, the face covering should:
  - a. fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
  - b. be secured with ties or ear loops
  - c. include multiple layers of fabric
  - d. allow for breathing without restriction
  - e. be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
4. Deputy sheriff / law enforcement personnel and security personnel are authorized to require the removal of a face covering worn by any person if, in their discretion, the face covering poses a security concern, impedes identification, or otherwise interferes with the administration of justice within Judicial Facilities.
5. Deputy sheriff / law enforcement personnel and security personnel shall deny entry into Judicial Facilities, or remove from Judicial Facilities, any person who does not comply with the requirements of this Masks / Face Coverings Policy.

#### **PRESENCE OF COVID-19 SYMPTOMS**

1. No person shall enter a Judicial Facility if they have had symptoms of COVID-19 within the prior 72 hours, or risk of exposure to COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
  - a. The symptoms of COVID-19 include:
    - Fever
    - Cough
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - New loss of taste or smell
  - b. Risk of exposure to COVID-19 includes:
    - Persons who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19
    - Having contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19
    - Living in or visiting a place where COVID-19 is spreading.
2. Court Personnel who have symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 shall:
  - a. Not report to the Judicial Facilities, and
  - b. Promptly notify their supervisor about their symptoms or exposure.