

JURY SERVICE DURING COVID-19

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why are the courts summoning jurors during a pandemic?

Article I, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides that “[a]ll courts shall be open” and that “justice shall be administered without favor, denial, or delay.” The Judicial Branch must fulfill this mandate in ways that prioritize and protect the health and safety of judicial officials, employees, and the public.

Effective January 14, 2021, Chief Justice Paul Newby authorized jury trials to resume statewide in district and superior courts. Local judicial officials have been strongly encouraged to resume jury trials without delay.

I am considered a high-risk individual for COVID-19 and I have been summoned for jury service. Do I have to appear?

[Contact the clerk of superior court](#) in the county where you have been summoned for juror excuse policy information or refer to your juror summons for information related to requesting an excuse.

I live with a person / I am a caretaker for a person who is a high-risk individual for COVID-19 and I have been summoned for jury service. Do I have to appear?

[Contact the clerk of superior court](#) in the county where you have been summoned for juror excuse policy information or refer to your juror summons for information related to requesting an excuse.

Do I need to bring my own hand sanitizer?

Hand sanitizer may be provided at the courthouse. However, please be advised that security policies may prevent you from entering the courthouse if you bring your own hand sanitizer. Please contact the [local facility](#) before appearing for court to determine if hand sanitizer is provided and / or if you may bring your personal hand sanitizer into the courthouse.

How long will the trial last?

Trial lengths may vary depending on the case.

How long will I be in court each day?

This may vary depending on the case.



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What should I do if I am experiencing COVID-19 symptoms prior to my jury service date?

Do not appear at the courthouse to report your symptoms. If you begin experiencing COVID-19 symptoms prior to your jury service date, please [inform the clerk of superior court](#) in the county where you were summoned by phone.

What should I do if I experience COVID-19 symptoms during my jury service?

If you begin experiencing COVID-19 symptoms during your period of jury service while at the court facility, please inform the nearest court official (e.g., clerk, bailiff).

