

<u>State</u>	<u>Summary</u>
Arizona	<p>The Supreme Court of Arizona wrote a resource entitled, “COVID-19 Continuity of Court Operations During a Public Health Emergency Workgroup Best Practice Recommendations”. In its Guiding Principles the Court writes, “The recommendations here are intended to provide general guidance to judges and court managers to resume day-to-day operations in the new normal. Local courts are best situated to determine which recommendations are appropriate to implement in any specific court or court facility.” Arizona’s position is to always keep the CDC guidelines in mind. It seems that the Court has applied the guidelines to the specifics of their courts system for the separate stakeholders. They are suggesting staggering and or moving the scheduling of hearings, so the minimum number of people have to be in the courthouse at one time and assigning employees to specific judges and rooms where they previously shared work. The Court acknowledges that some jurisdictions are taking the temperature of staff and visitors but does not indicate whether it finds this practice appropriate statewide. The Court suggested local benches shift important/constitutional criminal cases to civil and family court judges to expedite criminal proceedings.</p>
Florida	<p>The Chief Justice of The Supreme Court of Florida and the Workgroup on Continuity of Court Operations and Proceedings During and After COVID-19 prepared a 21-page memo Entitled “Best Practices” addressed to the Florida Judiciary. Florida is concerned with helping <i>pro se</i> litigants appear with remote technology and has crafted suggestions for both the litigants and judges on how to make best use of video conferencing technology. One of the best practices is to predetermine which family and juvenile cases <i>must</i> be heard remotely and which <i>may</i> be heard remotely. (alternative dispute resolution – must, juvenile dependency – may) Florida is also concerned with timeliness of criminal proceedings urging all local jurisdictions to make sure they have up to date contact information for all judges, attorneys, and other court officers, as well as up to date forms. Several pages of the memo are sample form attachments.</p>
Indiana	<p>The Resuming Operations Task Force, started by The Office of Judicial Administration wrote a set of guidelines entitled, “Resuming Operations of the Trial Courts: Covid-19 Guidelines For Indiana’s Judiciary”. Indiana’s plan for reopening its courts to their function before COVID-19 outbreak is divided into four phases. Phase one consists of operating court for emergency hearings</p>

	<p>and for required hearings, as well as planning for the health and safety of judicial branch staff upon return their return to duty stations with little or no visitors. Before advancing to phase two each court must file an A.R.17 Petition with a plan for its operation. Phase two resumes functions not emergency. At this phase courts can hear family and civil matters that were postponed during phase one. Phase two specifically addresses staggering hearings, streaming public hearings, and requiring the minimum number of people in court to protect the public from infection. Phase three allows jury trials to resume. The task force suggests calling extra people for <i>voir dire</i> but conducting selection remotely. Phase four is reached “when the pandemic is over”. At this phase normal operations, travel, business, staffing, etc. resumes and court leadership meets to prepare a pandemic specific COOP plan.</p>
Michigan	<p>Michigan has prepared a packet entitled “Return to Full Capacity: COVID-19 Guidelines for Michigan’s Judiciary”. The packet explains the plan to return the court system to full capacity and simultaneously explains that full capacity will mean something different in 2020. This new capacity will require “a culture shift in the judiciary...” Courts are required to submit plans for each phase to their equivalent of the AOC. Phase One- telework when possible, even for those not at risk but living with at risk individuals. Employees check temperature, make sure they have no cold/flu/infection symptoms. Consult local health officials before reopening the courthouse. Phase Two- After data showing no resurgence of infection has been gathered by local health officials and included in the plan submitted to the Administrative Office, courts can advance to this phase. Consider prioritizing cases based on, “Early Case Triage Strategies to Ease Docket Pressure” (2-page outline prepared by Michigan AO). Large rooms and common areas can be used while maintaining social distancing. Phase Three- on site public facing operations can be resumed as well as visits with clients and visits with probationers. Phase Four- access and operations can return without restrictions and to their functions before COVID outbreak. Chief judges and court administrators meet with stakeholders to debrief and plan separate pandemic specific COOP plans.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Nebraska’s AOC&P (and Probation) prepared, “COVID-19: Recovery and Reconstitution Guidance for the Trial Courts”. The entire packet has an informative tone that implies its contents are suggestions rather than requirements. Any indications on the charts below are marked as if the language did not include the verb “consider” before each measure. Nebraska is prioritizing cases,</p>

	<p>but the focus is on resolving pending cases first. This resource is shorter than most and refers to CDC guidelines for many things that others specifically mentioned. For example, limiting people gathered, cleaning the courthouse daily, not coming to work if feeling sick, etc.</p>
Ohio	<p>Ohio has a lengthy packet entitled “Health and Safety in the Courthouse” Ohio stakeholders have generated signs for display in public spaces about the steps to prevent COVID-19 infection, how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as visual aids on social distancing. The Judicial Conference of Ohio has prepared a checklist for Ohio judges to assess and reassess their preparedness to reopen courts. The checklist specifically focuses on the virus’s effect on individual counties. The Conference emphasizes consulting local health departments. Delaware County and Franklin County Ohio have installed plexiglass and wooden dividers to ensure social distancing in courthouse common areas.</p> <p>Proposed screening employees for fevers and asking if employees are experiencing new symptoms. Proposed screening public with more questions including: gone on a cruise, have a fever, been around anyone infected, can we take your temperature?</p>
Vermont	<p>The Supreme Court of Vermont has issued Executive Order Number 49 “Declaration Of Judicial Emergency And Changes To Court Procedures” on March 16, 2020 and has updated the Order 10 times. The latest update is from May 14, 2020. The Judicial state of emergency is in effect until September 1, 2020. Currently the Court lists 17 Constitutional matters being heard pursuant to the Order; arraignments, competency hearings, petitions for habeas corpus, etc. as well as emergency landlord-tenant disputes, guardianship hearings, and applications for search warrants. All jury trials are suspended until September 1, 2020 in criminal cases and January 1, 2021 in civil cases. In jurisdictions where e-filing and e-service are already in place the rules do not change. In jurisdictions where the e-courts system is not yet in place, e-filing is now allowed with instructions on the judiciary’s website, vermontjudiciary.org. The Court has restricted the access to courthouses in the state except for four exceptions; filing documents via a receptacle, appearing in a hearing not postponed, media with a pass, and other agencies working in shared courthouses. It has also explicitly loosened enforcement of deadlines for public requests to access court records. Associate Justice Eaton is chairing a committee that will make recommendations to the Chief Justice about transitioning back to full operations. In-person committee meetings are currently suspended.</p>

Measures to Protect Judicial Branch Employees

	Telework	Shiftwork	Move Workspaces	Require masks	No Sharing Materials	Limit number in common areas	Self-Assessment before work	Prioritize Cases
AZ	X	X		X				X
FL	X							X
IN	X	X		X	X		X	X
MI	X			X	X	X	X	X
NE	X	X		X	X			X
OH	X	X	X	X	X	X		
VT		X						X

Measures to Protect Public Facing Judicial Branch Employees

	Remote Hearings	Install Plexiglass	Measure and Mark Floor	Point of Sale without Contact	Meet by Appointment(s)	Encourage self service via court website
AZ	X	X		X	X	X
FL	X			X		X
IN	X	X	X			
MI	X		X			
NE	X		X		X	X
OH	X	X	X	X	X	X
VT	X			X		X

Measures to Protect Public

	Signs Explaining Expectations	Require Masks	Sanitize Daily	Call fewer Jurors	Assemble Jurors In Alternate Spaces	Livestream Court	Protocol If Someone Tests Positive	Extra Judges and staff
AZ	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FL						X		
IN	X	X				X		
MI	X	X		X			X	
NE	X	X			X			
OH	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
VT	X				X	X		