



TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
WAKE COUNTY  
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August 19, 2021

From: Hon. Paul Ridgeway, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Hon. Ned Mangum, Chief District Court Judge  
Hon. Lorrin Freeman, District Attorney  
Hon. Blair Williams, Clerk of Superior Court  
Hon. Chris Graves, Chief Magistrate  
Mr. Deonte Thomas, Chief Public Defender  
Ms. Kellie Myers, Trial Court Administrator

To: Courthouse Personnel and Members of the Public

Re: Vaccination and Testing Policy

With the recent significant increase in the number of individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 and the resource demand on local hospitals as individuals become ill, many agencies, both public and private, have adopted vaccination and testing requirements for their employees. While these policies do not ensure that individuals will not become sick, they are another tool in our collective fight against the COVID-19 virus and they are designed to and do mitigate the number of individuals both among our workforce and the public who are exposed to the virus. As a result, the Tenth Judicial District Emergency Response Team has adopted effective September 15, 2021 a policy that requires that each Tenth Judicial District court system employee be either vaccinated or tested weekly.

In order to comply with this policy, Judicial Branch hiring authorities within the courts will be requesting a copy of employee vaccination cards and/or copies of weekly negative test results for employees who choose not to receive the vaccine. We understand that there are many reasons why individuals choose not to obtain the vaccine. Research shows us that while a fully vaccinated person may still become infected with the virus, the number of these cases remains to date below ten percent of the overall number of newly reported cases. As part of our duty to each other and to the public we serve, we have a responsibility to identify individuals who may be sick and therefore contagious and to take appropriate steps to have them isolate as soon as possible. Our State Constitution, as noted by Chief Justice Newby, provides that the courts shall remain open, and while that may not always be achievable, we do have an affirmative duty to do what we can to meet that requirement.

For those individuals who will need to be tested weekly, there are several resources. Wake County operates free testing sites throughout the county six days a week from 7am-7pm. These sites are efficiently run and are able to return results in 12-24 hours. More information about these sites, as well as information about free home tests that may be obtained, can be accessed on the Wake County COVID website at [Free COVID-19 testing | Wake County Government \(wakegov.com\)](https://www.wakegov.com/covid-19/testing).

Further directions may be provided by your hiring authorities to assist in complying with this policy.

We appreciate your ongoing cooperation as we all do our best to navigate this pandemic with our collective focus being on staying well.