



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

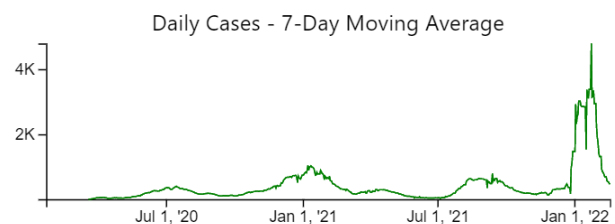
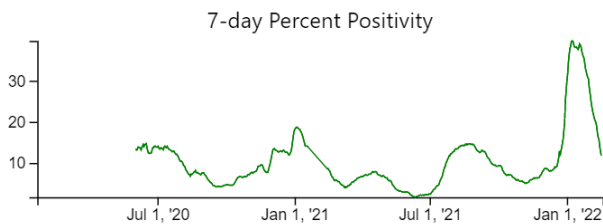
The 26th Judicial District of North Carolina
www.NCcourts.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 21, 2022

26th Judicial District (Mecklenburg County) Announces Modified Court Operations effective March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022

In the continued interest of the health and safety of the community and court personnel, we remain committed to balancing access to justice with the ongoing public health crisis that COVID-19 presents. The scope of court operations shall be predicated upon minimum public health criteria established by Mecklenburg County Public Health. Mecklenburg County Public Health has developed community public health indicators based on the case rate per 100,000 persons and percent positivity rate, which provide a general framework for decision-making and recommendations related to superior and district court.

According to the latest [COVID-19 data](#) for Mecklenburg County, the positivity rate is 10.99 percent, with a case rate of 265.23 per 100,000 persons. These data metrics indicate high community spread in Mecklenburg County.



In accordance with the [Administrative Order](#) regarding district and superior court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and Courts-Continuation of Operation Plan (C-COOP), the 26th Judicial District will continue to operate in the red from March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022, with the following changes:

Business court matters will continue to be held in courtroom 6370. Civil trials in superior court will be held in courtroom 6130. Additional civil trial sessions in superior court may be scheduled for 2.1 exceptional cases and medical malpractice cases. Criminal trials in superior court will be held in courtrooms 5110 and 5370.

Jurors summoned to appear should follow their reporting time and instructions listed on their jury summons. All grand jury proceedings will continue as scheduled.

Probation matters in superior court will be held every other week in courtroom 5350. A limited number of cases will be scheduled in four (4) ninety-minute blocks on Monday through Thursday beginning at 9:30 a.m. Probation probable cause hearings will be held in the first quad on Monday. Eight (8) probation violation hearings will be held in the remaining quads on Mondays and all quads on Tuesday through Thursday.

First appearance hearings for criminal misdemeanor and infraction cases in district court will be held in courtroom 1130. Three (3) courtrooms will be open for in-person criminal trials in district court in accordance with the structure set forth in the attached reference chart. Misdemeanor bond hearings will be held on Wednesdays during the afternoon session. Defense attorneys must request the bond hearing at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance. Misdemeanor probation violations and probation violation probable cause hearings will be held during the Friday morning sessions of the court in which the judgment was entered.

Domestic court matters may be scheduled for in-person hearings in accordance with the structure set forth in the attached reference chart.

Child Support Enforcement (CSE) enforcement matters may be scheduled for in-person hearings on Mondays and Thursdays. Modification and establishment cases which cannot be held remotely may be scheduled for in-person hearings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Recovery Courts will conduct hybrid court sessions every two weeks per the Recovery Courts calendar.

The key court officials will reevaluate current operations and issue an updated court schedule on a monthly basis, taking into account local COVID-19 data, public health guidance, and workforce availability. Please see the attached reference chart for full details regarding changes to court operations that will take effect on March 1, 2022. Additionally, the [Administrative Order](#) requiring all individuals who enter the Mecklenburg County Courthouse to wear a face covering remains in effect.

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