

SECOND AMENDED MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS
FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUDICIARY

Pursuant to the Supreme Court of Texas' *FORTIETH EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING THE COVID-19 STATE OF DISASTER*, the undersigned, as Local Administrative District Judge for Montgomery County, Texas, adopts the following provisions.

IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS

The district courts, county courts at law and justice courts of Montgomery County, Texas, may conduct in-person proceedings, including both jury and non-jury proceedings, pursuant to the following.

Minimum Standard Health Protocols

1. Hand sanitizer dispensers shall be maintained at the entrances to each building, outside of the elevators on each floor of each building, outside of public bathrooms in each building, near all vending machines, outside of each courtroom, and within each courtroom.
2. The Department of State Health Service's "Stop the Spread of Germs Flyer" shall be posted in multiple locations on each floor of the court buildings.
3. Court building cleaning staff will clean the common areas of each court building so that common spaces are regularly disinfected during working hours of each business day.
4. Court building cleaning staff and court staff have been, and will be, provided cleaning supplies shown to be effective with coronavirus.
5. Court building cleaning staff and court staff have been, and will be, provided with appropriate cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment, such as face masks, tissue and hand sanitizer.
6. All individuals entering the court building will be encouraged to wear a face mask and/or face covering. Free, disposable face masks will be made available for anyone who does not already have his/her own face covering.
7. All persons not from the same household who enter any court building will be encouraged to maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet if they are not wearing a face mask or face covering.
8. The judge of each court will encourage all persons within the courtroom to (a) wear a face mask or face covering and/or (b) maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet (excluding persons from the same household) if they are not wearing a face mask or face covering.
9. The judge of each court will ensure that tissues have been placed inside the courtroom, at counsel tables, at the witness stand, and on the judge's bench.
10. The judge of each court will ensure that frequently touched objects and surfaces within the courtroom are regularly disinfected during working hours of each business day.

11. Judges and court staff are encouraged to clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in their courtroom(s) and offices.

12. Paragraphs 1-11 above also apply to all in-person jury proceedings. Any in-person jury proceeding beginning on or before September 3, 2021, must follow and adhere to all requirements imposed by the *FIRST AMENDED MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS AND IN-PERSON PROCEEDING SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY JUDICIARY*.

13. Any meals, snacks, water, drinks or coffee to be provided to jurors shall be only provided to each juror on an individual basis, i.e. no commonly shared food, snacks, beverages, etc.

14. The judge of each court will ensure that any location utilized for jury selection is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to jury selection.

15. The judge of each court will ensure that the courtroom is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day before proceeding with a jury trial.

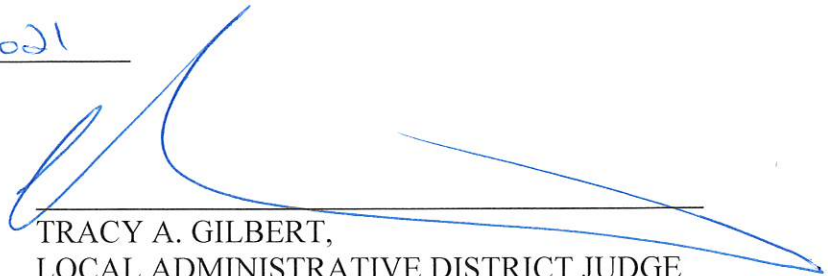
16. The judge of each court will ensure that frequently touched objects and surfaces within the courtroom are regularly disinfected during working hours of each business day. This will specifically include the disinfecting of (1) the witness stand (following each witness' testimony) and (2) the bench (following each bench conference).

17. The judge of each court will ensure that tissues have been placed in the jury box or in the location where the jury will be seated during a jury trial.

NOTHING IN THIS DOCUMENT PROHIBITS ANY JUDGE FROM REQUIRING FURTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COURT PARTICIPANTS WITHIN HIS/HER COURTROOM.

Before signing and approving this document, I have consulted with the judges in Montgomery County, Texas. I will encourage that the judges in Montgomery County, Texas, conduct in-person proceedings consistent with this plan.

SIGNED on August 2, 2021



TRACY A. GILBERT,
LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT JUDGE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS