



CORONAVIRUS & THE COURTS

#CovidAndTheCourts

(updated March 24, 12PM)

Latest Updates

Louisiana: [Courts are instructed](#) to follow all guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control, the President and the Governor, and to further limit access to courtroom and other spaces to the maximum number of people set forth in any future guideline or official proclamation that may be issued. All essential court functions should be conducted with the use of video and telephone conferencing whenever possible. Any court lacking the technological capabilities to implement this mandate shall notify the Judicial Administrator of the Louisiana Supreme Court so that accommodations can be made.

New Jersey: The Supreme Court issued an order that will [suspend or commute county jail sentences for low-risk inmates](#) in light of the public health emergency caused by coronavirus COVID-19.

New Mexico: Judges **must** conduct audio and video teleconferencing for civil and criminal proceedings, [except when an emergency requires in-person appearances](#).

Alabama

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website judicial.alabama.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All in-person court proceedings suspended for 30 days \(March 16 to April 16\)](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Alaska

COVID-19 website: <http://courts.alaska.gov/main/response.htm>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All new jury trials statewide scheduled to begin the week of March 16 are postponed. Jury trials in progress will finish out as scheduled. All superior and district court proceedings suspended until April 3, with exceptions.](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Arizona

COVID-19 website: <https://www.azcourts.gov/covid19/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [IT IS ORDERED](#) that all in-person proceedings in all Arizona appellate, superior, justice and municipal courts and before the presiding disciplinary judge be avoided to the greatest extent possible consistent with core constitutional rights until further order of this court. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that empanelling of new petit juries scheduled for March 18, 2020 through April 17, 2020 be rescheduled.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order

Arkansas

COVID-19 website: <https://www.arcourts.gov/arkansas-supreme-court-statement-novel-coronavirus-outbreak-and-courts>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [\[T\]he Supreme court of Arkansas hereby suspends all in-person proceedings in all appellate, circuit, and district courts, subject to the exceptions in this order...](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order

California

COVID-19 website: <https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/coronavirus-updates>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: None. "The Judicial Council continues to closely monitor the evolving COVID-19 coronavirus situation and share information with all courts."

Local: [Numerous local courts have issued local orders regarding jury trials and/or in-person proceedings.](#)

Colorado

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.state.co.us/announcements/COVID-19.cfm>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Effective immediately](#), all jury cases in state courts, with the exception of jury calls for criminal trials facing imminent speedy trial deadlines, are suspended through [May 15, 2020](#), again excepting cases with imminent speedy trial deadlines.

Local: [Numerous local courts have issued local orders regarding in-person proceedings.](#)



Connecticut

COVID-19 website: <https://jud.ct.gov/COVID19.htm>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Under the terms and provisions of the Judicial Branch's Continuity of Operations Plan \(COOP\), commencing Monday, March 16, 2020, and continuing through March 27, 2020, the courts will schedule and hear only those matters identified as "Priority 1 Business Functions."](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Delaware

COVID-19 website: <https://courts.delaware.gov/aoc/covid-19>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Judicial emergency declared March 16 for 30 days.](#) All trial courts in the State shall have the discretion to continue trials and hearings in civil and criminal cases for a period of 30 days in order to limit the number of people gathering in public court buildings.

Local: [Jurors no longer summoned in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex.](#)

Florida

COVID-19 website: <https://www.flcourts.org/Resources-Services/Emergency-Preparedness/COVID-19-Information-and-Updates>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All grand jury proceedings, jury selection proceedings, and criminal and civil jury trials are suspended during the period beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, through Friday, March 27, 2020, or as provided by subsequent order.](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Georgia

COVID-19 website: https://www.gasupreme.us/court-information/court_corona_info/

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Judicial emergency declared. Decision left to local judges.](#) "courts should remain open to address essential functions, and in particular courts should give priority to matters necessary to protect health, safety, and liberty of individuals."

Local: Numerous local courts have suspended or postponed jury trials.

Hawaii

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.state.hi.us/covid-19-information-page>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [W]ith the exception of emergency and time-sensitive matters, [in-person appearances for civil, family, and, to the extent possible, criminal dockets will be limited starting Tuesday March 17, 2020 until Thursday April 30, 2020, unless otherwise ordered.](#)

Local: n/a (state has centralized management of its courts)

Idaho

COVID-19 website: <https://isc.idaho.gov/Emergency%20Orders>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [End of jury trials from March 16 to April 10.](#)

Local: [Numerous local orders have been issued.](#)

Illinois

COVID-19 website: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/Administrative/covid-19.asp>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: None

Local: [Numerous jury postponements.](#)



Indiana

COVID-19 website: <https://www.in.gov/judiciary/5575.htm>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: None.

Local: [Emergency Petitions for Administrative Orders for Local Courts to Operate](#)

Iowa

COVID-19 website: <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/covid-19-information-and-updates/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Civil trials suspended to April 20. Criminal trials not yet commenced suspended to April 20.](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Kansas

COVID-19 website: [https://www.kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Court-Administration/OJA/Kansas-Courts-Response-to-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\)](https://www.kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Court-Administration/OJA/Kansas-Courts-Response-to-Coronavirus-(COVID-19))

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: All jury trials continued. All courts restricted to "emergency operations" as defined [in the order](#).

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

Kentucky

COVID-19 website: <https://kycourts.gov/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Supreme Court restricts court proceedings March 16-April 10 to observe social distancing](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Louisiana

COVID-19 website: <https://www.lasc.org/COVID19/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All jury trials, both civil and criminal, scheduled to commence in any Louisiana state court between the date of this Order and March 27, 2020, are hereby continued to a date to be reset by local order no earlier than March 30, 2020.](#) Civil and criminal jury trials that are in progress as of March 13, 2020 may continue to conclusion, in the discretion of the local court.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Maine

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.maine.gov/covid19.shtml>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [March 13 and continuing through May 1, 2020, with the exception of certain events, all in-person court events for family, civil, and criminal dockets are postponed.](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Maryland

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.state.md.us/coronavirusupdate>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All other matters scheduled to be heard between March 16, 2020, through April 3, 2020, are postponed pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.](#) All courts in the Maryland Judiciary, court offices, administrative offices, units of the Judiciary, and the Offices of the Clerks of the Circuit Courts and the clerks' offices of the District Court [shall be restricted to emergency operations and closed with limited exceptions as described in this order beginning on March 17, 2020, through April 3, 2020,](#) or until further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.



Massachusetts

COVID-19 website: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/court-system-response-to-covid-19>
Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: Except as provided, [all jury trials, in both criminal and civil cases, scheduled to commence in Massachusetts state courts between the date of this order and April 17, 2020, are hereby continued to a date no earlier than April 21, 2020.](#) In addition [access to courthouses is restricted.](#) Effective March 18, 2020 and continuing until at least April 16, 2020, the only in person proceedings that shall be held in Massachusetts state courthouses will be to address emergency matters that cannot be resolved through a videoconference or telephonic hearing, either because such a hearing is not practicable or because it would be inconsistent with the protection of constitutional rights.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Michigan

COVID-19 website: <https://courts.michigan.gov/News-Events/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>
Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: n/a. "[In support of this goal, on order of the Court, each trial court judge may implement emergency measures regarding court operations to enable continued service while also mitigating the risk of further transmission of the virus. Subject to constitutional and statutory limitations, such emergency measures may include...](#)"

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

Minnesota

COVID-19 website: <http://www.mncourts.gov/Emergency.aspx>
Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [For case types designated "Medium Priority" or "Low Priority" in the Limited Court Service Case Priorities List, all court proceedings \(except jury trials currently underway, or cases where a speedy trial has been demanded\) will be suspended for 14 days. No new jury trials in these case types should be scheduled for the next 30 days.](#) In addition [statewide order, ADM20-8001](#) Continuing Operations of the Courts of the State of Minnesota Under a Statewide Peacetime Declaration of Emergency. The order restricts in-person access to courthouses for only designated case types, and opens up additional opportunities for remote hearings that must occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. The order goes into effect on Monday, March 23, 2020, and is in effect for the next 30 days or until another order is issued, whichever comes first.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Mississippi

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website courts.ms.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Individual judges have discretion to control their general dockets and are authorized to instruct their clerks that jury summonses may not be sent to jurors which would be returnable to any date prior to April 13, 2020.](#) No groupings of [more than 50 people.](#)

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.



Missouri

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.mo.gov/pandemic/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [The order suspends](#) with certain listed exceptions all in-person proceedings in all state courts through April 3 and authorizing local courts to determine the manner in which the listed exceptions should be conducted.

Local: [Local orders available for additional restrictions.](#)

Montana

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website courts.mt.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Mike McGrath, chief justice of the Montana Supreme Court, has instructed all state courts to adopt a list of practices beginning Monday. Parties set for trial through April 30 will be encouraged to request a postponement in order to minimize courthouse foot traffic.](#)

Local: [numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.](#)

Nebraska

COVID-19 website: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/administration/nebraska-judicial-branch-emergency-status-information>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: None. [Restrictions on those with or suspected of having COVID-19.](#)

Local: Unclear/no information

Nevada

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website nvcourts.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: None

Local: Carson City and Las Vegas courthouses limiting public access in light of the COVID-19 outbreak

New Hampshire

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.state.nh.us/aoc/corona-covid-19.html>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Subject to the exceptions in paragraph 4 below, all in-person proceedings in the Circuit, Superior and Supreme Courts are suspended from close of business on Monday, March 16, 2020 through April 6, 2020](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

New Jersey

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website njcourts.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [As of March 18, 2020](#) and until further notice, there are no in-person Superior Court proceedings (except for extremely limited emergent matters and certain ongoing trials). As many matters as possible (including case management conferences, motions, and hearings) will be handled by telephone or video conference.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.



New Mexico

COVID-19 website: <https://www.nmcourts.gov/news.aspx>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Postponed civil jury trials that have not started, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Civil non-jury trials will proceed unless rescheduled by a judge. Jury summons limited to 25 people.](#)

Local: Protection protocols in place.

New York

COVID-19 website: <https://www.nycourts.gov/whatsnew/covid.shtml>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Conclude current trials, but no new trials to begin. All non-essential functions postponed.](#)

Local: n/a; statewide order issued.

North Carolina

COVID-19 website: <https://www.nccourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus-updates>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Effective Monday, March 16, superior court and district court proceedings will be rescheduled for at least 30 days, with some exceptions.](#)

Local: [List of local court actions.](#)

North Dakota

COVID-19 website: <https://www.ndcourts.gov/emergency-order-and-pandemic-response>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: Effective immediately, all criminal [and civil] jury trials are suspended until April 24, 2020 or until further order of the Supreme Court.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Ohio

COVID-19 website: <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/coronavirus/default.asp>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: none

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

Oklahoma

COVID-19 website: information posted to main page of judiciary's website

<https://www.oscn.net/v4/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Subject only to constitutional limitations, assigned judges should reschedule all non-jury trial settings, hearings, and pretrial settings.](#)

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

Oregon

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Chief Justice orders statewide postponements of most trials, hearings; limits in-person court services](#)

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

Pennsylvania

COVID-19 website: <http://www.pacourts.us/ujs-coronavirus-information>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [By order of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania](#), all Pennsylvania Courts are generally closed to the public, beginning at the close of business March 19, 2020, and lasting through at least April 3, 2020, subject to general and specific directives and exceptions in the order.

Local: [numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.](#)



Rhode Island

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website www.courts.ri.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Court sessions cancelled week of March 16-20.](#)

Emergency/urgent matters only until April 17, 2020.

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

South Carolina

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website <https://www.sccourts.org/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: n/a

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

South Dakota

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website ujs.sd.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: n/a. [Local judges may adopt rules changes subject to approval by Chief Justice.](#)

Local: n/a.

Tennessee

COVID-19 website: <https://www.tncourts.gov/Coronavirus>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All in-person proceedings in all state and local courts in Tennessee, including but not limited to municipal, juvenile, general sessions, trial, and appellate courts, are suspended from the close of business on Friday, March 13, 2020 through Tuesday, March 31, 2020, subject to the exceptions.](#)

Local: Statewide order issued. [Local courts have taken additional measures.](#)

Texas

COVID-19 website: <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/court-procedures-for-the-2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: n/a; [order permits local courts to take steps until May 8, 2020.](#)

Local: numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials.

Utah

COVID-19 website: <https://www.utcourts.gov/alerts/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: n/a. [Local courts authorized to take actions consistent with "Red" plan in state's continuity of operations plan.](#)

Local: Unclear/no information

Vermont

COVID-19 website: <https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/news/information-regarding-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-and-court-operations>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [Postponement of all jury trials for which the jury has not yet been drawn until at least April 15, 2020.](#)

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.



Virginia

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website
courts.state.va.us

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [This Order](#) shall be in effect from today, Monday, March 16, to Monday, April 6, 2020, and it is hereby ORDERED that NON-ESSENTIAL, NON-EMERGENCY court proceedings in all circuit and district courts be and hereby are SUSPENDED and all deadlines are hereby tolled and extended, pursuant to Va. Code § 17.1-330(D), for a period of twenty-one (21) days, and all circuit and district courts shall implement the following measures absent a specific exception as listed below...

Local: Local orders preempted by statewide order.

Washington

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website
www.courts.wa.gov

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All civil jury trials shall be suspended until after April 24, 2020](#). All emergency matters that must be heard before April 24, 2020, must be heard by telephone, video, or other means that does not require in-person attendance, unless impossible. All criminal jury trials are suspended until after April 24, 2020

Local: [numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials](#).

West Virginia

COVID-19 website: <http://www.courtswv.gov/covid19/COVID19.html>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: [All proceedings and court deadlines, except the emergency proceedings described herein, directed to take place or any act required to be done on any day falling within this period of judicial emergency, are stayed](#). All jury trials are stayed during this period of judicial emergency.

Local: Unclear/no information

Wisconsin

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website
www.wicourts.gov (Tab: COVID-19)

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: Supreme Court orders hold on jury trials, halts in-person proceedings statewide in favor of phone and video appearances through May 22.

Local: [numerous localities have suspended or delayed trials](#). (Tab: COVID-19)

Wyoming

COVID-19 website: <https://www.courts.state.wy.us/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/>

Statewide ordered delays or restrictions: n/a.

Local: Unclear/no information

Washington, DC

COVID-19 website: <https://www.dccourts.gov/coronavirus>

Districtwide ordered delays or restrictions: [To the extent that a case type has not been identified below, all nonpriority matters scheduled before May 1, 2020, will be rescheduled and new dates set; emergency matters will be heard as scheduled by the court and as set forth \[in the order\]](#).

Local: n/a. Districtwide order issued.



US Virgin Islands

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website
www.vicourts.org

Territory wide ordered delays or restrictions: [Restriction on entrance into courthouses. No civil or criminal jury trials will be conducted in the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands except for those already in process.](#)

Local: n/a. Territory wide order issued.

Puerto Rico

COVID-19 website: <http://www.ramajudicial.pr/Plan-emergencia-COVID-19.htm>

Commonwealth wide ordered delays or restrictions: All hearings and judicial matters at the courts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are suspended from March 16-30. Only urgent matters will be entertained.

Local: n/a. Commonwealth wide order issued.

Guam

COVID-19 website: n/a, information posted to main page of judiciary's website
www.guamsupremecourt.com

Territory wide ordered delays or restrictions: [Restrictions on entrance to courts.](#)

Local: n/a (no localized courts)

American Samoa

COVID-19 website: Unclear/no information

Territory wide ordered delays or restrictions: Unclear/no information

Local: n/a (no localized courts)

Northern Mariana Islands

COVID-19 website: Unclear/no information

Territory wide ordered delays or restrictions: Unclear/no information

Local: n/a (no localized courts)

