

BY ORDER OF THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OF FORT BEND COUNTY:

Effective immediately, All Fort Bend County Courts shall comply with these Amended Minimum Standard Protocols For The Safe Resumption of In-Person Proceedings, which are enacted to give notice to all persons, that the following policies and procedures are designed to ensure the safe operation of the Courts of Fort Bend County, for the health and safety of jurors, staff, guests, and all others entering court facilities in Fort Bend County, during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

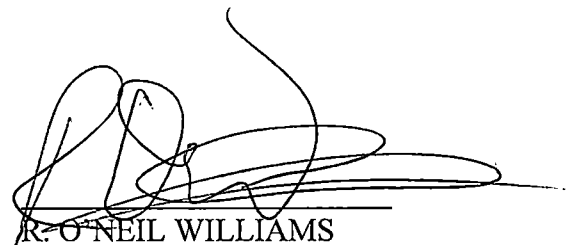
The District Clerk will include this letter with the Jury Summons, to inform all prospective jurors of these policies and protocol enacted for the health and safety of the jurors, the public, and all court staff:

1. Judges shall ensure proper precautions are/will be taken for the health and safety of those summoned during jury selection and the trial of any matter.
2. All participants and parties in a trial, including attorneys, jurors, staff, and spectators are encouraged but not required to wear appropriate face coverings during jury selection.
Wearing a mask is OPTIONAL.
3. Social distancing rules will be enforced in and around the Jury Assembly Room and Jury Room Number 2 of the Justice Center, as described by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.
4. A minimum of **THREE** feet of social distancing can be achieved through the use of this plan.
5. The Clerk shall summon enough persons in an attempt to qualify the number of venire men required by each court.
6. The jury selection process begins in assigned locations, the Jury Assembly Room and Jury Room Number 2.
7. At the conclusion of the selection process, each jury panel shall relocate to the designated Judge's courtroom where the jury process continues until 12 jurors and the requisite number of alternate panel members are selected, sworn, and seated for the continuation of the trial.

8. On a daily basis, the Judge shall ensure that Fort Bend County Facilities Department is instructed to clean/sanitize the Jury Assembly Room and Jury Room Number 2 following each session for the next Judge and case.
9. Bailiffs will ensure the Courtroom doors remain unlocked during trial. The Judge will determine the Courtroom capacity for social distancing seating and at their discretion, excess counsel, witnesses, and spectators may be asked to remain outside of the Courtroom, until space is available. The bailiff shall enforce capacity rules.
10. Persons exhibiting signs of illness, **MAY** be asked to leave the courtroom or trial area.
11. Persons excused due to illness or potential illness shall be required to present proof of clearance to return to court for said illness.
12. Failure to comply with the Judge's mask preference may result in contempt of court and sanctions, to include a fine, arrest, ejection from the courtroom , and/rejections from the building.
13. Reasonable accommodations will be made on a case by case basis.
14. Juror meals will be provided (when necessary) and delivered to the courthouse. The jury meals shall be eaten with members continuing to exercise appropriate social distancing and handwashing/hand sanitizing procedures. The bailiff shall ensure that the public, parties, or any other person not a member of the jury panel, not be allowed in the area during juror meals and breaks.
15. Due to the number of parties, attorneys, and expert witnesses, some larger trials may require the use of the Jury Assembly Room for juror qualification, jury selection, and trial, subject to availability for use as determined by the Local Administrative Judge.

The "PLAN" complies with continuing "EMERGENCY ORDERS" of the Supreme Court of Texas, and the continuing guidance from The Office of Court Administration.

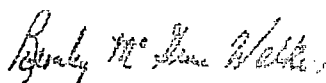
Ordered and Adjudged on this 21 day of June, 2022.



R. O'NEIL WILLIAMS
Local Administrative Judge
268th Judicial District Judge
Richmond, Fort Bend County, Texas

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CLERK DISTRICT COURT
FORT BEND CO. TX