



NOTICE

Court Operations: Transition to Phase 2 Beginning September 14, 2020

On Monday, September 14, 2020, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia will enter Phase 2 of its [Continuity of Operations Plan for the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (COOP Plan). This move comes approximately six months after the initial suspension, on March 17, 2020, of in-person court proceedings and jury trials. In mid-June, this Court methodically transitioned to Phase 1 of the phased restoration of operations detailed in the COOP Plan, and the move to Phase 2 follows consultation with multiple stakeholders and consideration of a number of factors, including the state of the COVID-19 pandemic in the D.C. metropolitan area, the status of community restrictions, public transportation and remote schooling, and this Court's preparedness to resume limited court operations with necessary in-person court proceedings, in a manner consistent with recommended health and safety protocols. Most court proceedings will continue to be conducted remotely during Phase 2.

The Court will continue to restrict or expand operations as circumstances warrant. Until further notice, court operations during Phase 2 are as set out below:

Access to the Courthouse: Restrictions on access to the Courthouse will remain in place and all authorized visitors must comply with all screening requirements, including use of the temperature check kiosk, upon entry.

In-Person Court Proceedings: Court proceedings will continue to be conducted remotely using video and audioconferencing technology, with public access provided via call-in lines. Under Phase 2, however, at the request of party, a proceeding may be held in person if the presiding Judge deems an in-person proceeding to be necessary. All participants will be required to wear face masks and maintain appropriate distancing during in-person court proceedings.

Jury Trials: Jury trials remain suspended until at least November 9, 2020.

Grand Juries: Grand juries continue to meet on a limited schedule with appropriate social distancing and other safety precautions.

Naturalization Ceremonies: Naturalization ceremonies continue to be conducted in small groups with appropriate social distancing and other safety precautions.

Attorney Admissions Ceremonies: Applications for admission to this Court's Bar continue to be processed on the papers only. Admission ceremonies remain suspended.

Cafeteria: The cafeteria remains closed until further notice.

Clerk's Office and U.S. Probation Operations: Operations remain limited, but on-site staff may be increased to support necessary functions.

Further information and standing orders relating to the COVID-19 pandemic may be found at: <https://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-response-information-and-announcements>.

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