



NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE JURORS

JURY SERVICE AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

You are receiving a juror summons in anticipation of the *possibility* that jury trials may resume in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia as early as **November 9, 2020**.

Jury trials have been suspended in this Court since March 17, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court is closely monitoring federal and local public health and safety guidance regarding the phased reopening of activities and businesses. Jury trials will only resume when the Court is able to ensure that the process of jury selection and the trials themselves can be conducted in full compliance with applicable public health and safety guidelines.

We are actively taking steps to plan for the resumption of jury trials in a way that protects the health and safety of prospective jurors, like yourself, as well as Court staff, attorneys, their clients, and other members of our community. These steps include:

- ensuring appropriate physical and social distancing (6 feet minimum) at points of assembly;
- requiring the use of facial coverings in the courthouse, including in courtrooms, with personal protective equipment and hand sanitizer dispensers made available to prospective jurors and visitors for their use;
- daily health screenings of all trial participants, including jurors, witnesses, parties, attorneys, and court staff;
- providing a contactless temperature screening kiosk for use on entering the courthouse;
- reconfiguring courtrooms in accordance with expert advice to ensure appropriate social distancing and installing plexiglass barriers;
- limiting overall number of people in courtrooms to minimum necessary;
- providing a larger space for jury deliberations to ensure sufficient social distancing;
- providing food so jurors do not have to leave the courthouse for lunch or snacks;
- limiting occupancy in elevators and restrooms; and
- conducting preliminary screening prior to prospective jurors coming to the courthouse.

Information about the Court's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Court's Continuity of Operations Plan during the COVID-19 pandemic (COOP), may be found on our website at:

www.dcd.uscourts.gov, and information particularly for jurors and prospective jurors, including steps being taken to protect juror health and safety while in the courthouse, may be found at:

<https://www.dcd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-jury-information>.

The Court understands and appreciates the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on many aspects of daily lives that may affect prospective jurors' ability and availability to serve. Updated information about whether jury trials will resume on November 9, 2020 or be postponed until a later date will be available on the Court's website at the links above in early November 2020. In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact our Jury Office by telephone, at (202) 354-3360, or by submitting a contact form online available at www.dcd.uscourts.gov/contact and selecting "Jury Service" as the category.

Please stay well.