

From: Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr.
To: Update From Chief Justice Minton 7-21-21: COVID cases driven by Delta variant call for renewed precautions
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[COVID-19](#) • Kentucky Public Health: [COVID-19](#) • KCOJ: [COVID-19 and the Courts](#)

Update for July 21, 2021

Justices, Judges, Circuit Court Clerks and Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel:

COVID cases driven by Delta variant call for renewed precautions

COVID-19 cases are ticking up in Kentucky, with current cases at the levels seen in October 2020 and March 2021. This is not the situation we wanted to find ourselves in several months after COVID vaccinations became readily available.

On Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear and Dr. Steven Stack, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health, gave an update on the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant, which is spreading across the state.

The current recommendation is for unvaccinated Kentuckians and those in jobs that require consistent contact with the public to take additional precautions, including:

- All unvaccinated Kentuckians should wear masks indoors when not in their home.
- Kentuckians at higher risk from COVID-19 due to preexisting conditions should wear masks indoors when not in their home.
- Vaccinated Kentuckians in jobs with significant public exposure should consider wearing a mask at work.
- All unvaccinated Kentuckians, when eligible, should be vaccinated immediately.

In light of this recent development, the Kentucky Court of Justice will continue to operate under the health and safety requirements issued May 18, 2021, in [Administrative Order 2021-16](#) and [Administrative Order 2021-17](#). Please note these recommendations:

- Although [Administrative Order 2021-16](#) does not mandate masks, it does allow appointing authorities to require masks in offices, courtrooms and judicial facilities. Appointing authorities are encouraged to consider the number of new COVID-19 cases and the positivity rate in their area to make informed decisions regarding mask usage.
- The use of remote proceedings is strongly encouraged. Reasonable accommodations must be made for individuals who cannot participate in person.
- Appointing authorities should report all positive cases to the Department of Human Resources and follow public health and KCOJ guidelines.

We will continue to monitor this latest wave of COVID-19 and provide updates as needed. Please remain vigilant and take the necessary precautions to protect the health of you, your family and the public we serve. Our primary concern is to ensure that court services are provided in a safe, responsible matter. You can email your questions to COVIDCourtConcerns@kycourts.net.

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