

SPECIAL COVID INSTRUCTIONS FOR JURORS

Jury trials at the Tulalip Tribal Court had been paused to slow the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19).

Starting September 1, the Court will resume jury trials with extensive new safety precautions. These safety precautions have been implemented to protect juror safety and public health.

The suspension of jury trials was needed to protect the health of the Court staff and patrons, and it gave us the opportunity to redesign a socially distanced jury process with the input of public health officials and experts. However, jury trials are critical to the administration of justice and it is time to re-start them with appropriate safeguards, which shall be described below.

NEW COVID SAFEGUARDS

New Jury processes include:

- 1.** Temperatures are taken at the front entry and jurors must answer a questionnaire regarding potential Covid-19 symptoms or health risks.
- 2.** Staggered juror appearance times and limited capacity in all courtrooms. Some juror questioning may also be conducted in shifts.
- 3.** Socially distanced seating and compliance with Center for Disease Control (CDC) precautionary measures, and the general public will not be permitted in the courtroom during jury selection.
- 4.** Placement of chairs have been redesigned to prevent “chokepoints” and to allow jurors to pass one another without violating social distancing.
- 5.** Plexiglass has been strategically placed around the courtrooms.

6. Thorough daily cleaning and disinfecting of all courtrooms, jury deliberation areas, and other public areas.
7. Masks required for jurors in the courthouse at all times. Gloves may be required to handle exhibits.
8. Judges, attorneys, and court staff will wear masks or face shields. Witnesses shall be behind plexiglass while testifying and shall wear a mask or face shield except while testifying.
9. Hand sanitizer will be available in the courtroom, jury deliberations areas, and other public areas.
10. Food and coffee will no longer be provided due to CDC precautionary instructions. Feel free to bring your own to the jury waiting area. Dispose of them once finished.

For more information see our Special Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions (SCFAQ) and other details on our website at <https://www.tulaliptribalcourt-nsn.gov/GeneralCourtInfo/JuryDuty>.

SPECIAL COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (SCFAQ)

1. Are jury trials still necessary?

- Yes. They are a key component of our justice system. They are critical to the fair administration of justice and are constitutionally guaranteed in criminal matters.

2. Will jury duty be in person?

- Yes. As of September 1, 2020, all jury duty is in person. It is important that jury duty be held in person to protect the constitutional rights of the accused, assure access to attorney presentations, evidence, exhibits, and to encourage and facilitate open, honest, and confidential juror discussion during deliberations.

3. What if I am in a high risk category? Can I be excused or rescheduled for jury duty?

- Yes. You may follow the instructions on your juror summons to request a deferral of your jury service to a later date if you are: (1) 65 years of age or older, or (2) regardless of age, you have underlying medical conditions which place you at increased risk, such as chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune disorders, obesity, diabetes, pregnancy, or chronic kidney or liver disease.

4. Will the courthouse be clean and safe?

- Yes. The courthouse and jury deliberation rooms are cleaned thoroughly daily. Protecting health and safety is a top priority.

5. Will the courthouse adhere to CDC precautionary measures related to social distancing?

- Yes. Jury positions will be spaced apart, chokepoints will be eliminated, room capacity will be reduced, and the general public will be excluded from the courtroom during jury selection.

6. Will I have to bring my own mask and gloves?

- Because we have a limited supply of personal protective equipment (PPE), the Court asks jurors to bring their own masks. If you do not have a mask, then the Court will provide you with one. You are not required to bring gloves, and will be provided nitrile gloves for handling exhibits in the event they are needed. You may also bring your own gloves if you wish.

7. Will the courthouse have hand sanitizer dispensers and hand washing areas?

- Yes. Hand sanitizers are available throughout the building and hand washing areas are available in the bathrooms.

8. What if I feel unsafe or sick after reporting to jury duty?

- Contact the Court Administrator, Stephanie Ancheta, at the following phone number immediately. 360-722-1697.

9. What if I feel sick the day of jury duty? Should I report or stay home?

- If you feel sick **DO NOT** come to jury selection. Stay home and contact the Court Administrator immediately. Your jury service will be deferred to a later date.