



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MONTEREY

PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

Court Actions to Mitigate the Spread of Contagious Illnesses and Address Public Concern Regarding COVID-19

This Court is responsible for ensuring equal access to the legal process, which includes the right of all visitors to the Monterey County Superior Court access to our courthouses without fear they may become exposed to contagious illnesses. This document is published to advise of the actions implemented by court administration to ensure the safety of our courthouse facilities and the health of our visitors. While this policy statement relates directly to recent concern regarding a new strain of the coronavirus, COVID-19, the procedures outlined herein will protect against the spread of contagious illnesses generally.

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are fairly common viruses that are found in the general population. The current strain of coronavirus, COVID-19, is different because it is a new strain for which a vaccine is not currently available, and the majority of the general population has not developed antibodies.

What is the Monterey County Superior Court doing to mitigate the spread of all contagious illnesses, including COVID-19?

Court administration is in ongoing contact with the Monterey County Department of Public Health, and will follow the best practice recommendations of public health officials. All courthouses, including all public areas, are cleaned daily. To reduce the spread of illness, our building maintenance staff has emphasized the disinfecting of all areas within the courthouses, with special focus on areas frequented by the public.

It is recommended that Court visitors adhere to the following procedures:

1. Frequently, throughout the day, wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds;
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
3. Avoid close contact with persons who are sick;
4. If possible, postpone your visit to a courthouse if you are sick with respiratory symptoms, a fever or a cough;
5. Follow the guidance of your doctor or public health officials;
6. Practice social distancing by avoiding large gatherings, and otherwise creating and maintaining physical space between yourself and other people.

What if I have received a jury summons to appear in court?

If you are not sick, you should report to the jury assembly room on the date and time indicated in your jury summons. Follow the five recommended procedures described above. You may consider bringing a small container of hand sanitizer with you to the courthouse as an additional precautionary measure.

It is emphasized that if you are sick with respiratory symptoms, a fever or a cough, DO NOT report to jury service. Contact the jury commissioner's office at (831) 775-5400 x 3006 or visit the court's website at <https://portal.monterey.courts.ca.gov/jury> to request that your jury service be deferred to a future date.

How can I keep informed regarding the coronavirus/COVID-19?

The latest information regarding COVID-19 is available on the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov, and the Monterey County Department of Public Health website at <https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/>

The Monterey County Superior Court will provide additional information as it becomes available.