

MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH SAFETY MEASURES

When courts are authorized by Minnesota Supreme Court order to begin more in-person courthouse activities, important cleaning and safety measures will be implemented to try to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Those who must be in courthouses should check their local courts' webpages, which include COVID-19 notices, prior to going to the courthouses in order to understand any local practices in addition to those described here that are in place. These recommendations are consistent with Minnesota Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) safety recommendations.

FACE COVERINGS

Mask use is encouraged when it does not conflict with proceedings in cases. Judicial officers may direct court participants to take additional measures in courtrooms.

Where social distancing cannot be maintained, cloth masks are recommended by the CDC to reduce source control, in order to prevent the wearer from spreading anything they may have. This will not prevent the wearer from contracting what anyone else in their proximity may have.

Encouraged to bring their own mask	Encouraged to wear their own or mask provided by court
Public	Jurors
Litigants	Court Staff & Judicial Officers
Attorneys	

OTHER SAFETY MEASURES

Detailed cleaning guidelines were developed in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health and will be provided to court staff and judicial officers.

- Routine cleaning of common spaces
- Common surfaces will be sanitized regularly
- Gloves will be available to staff who conduct sanitation
- Hand sanitizer will be available to employees and courthouse visitors
- Where feasible, plexiglass barriers will be added

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Courthouse staffing

- In-person staffing will be minimal, and whenever possible, employees will be encouraged to continue to work from home
- Accommodations will be made for employees who have underlying health vulnerabilities

Courtroom procedures

- Where feasible, electronic document intake and distribution will be encouraged to reduce paper handling
- Jurors will be carefully spaced and non-traditional, large spaces will be utilized to accommodate distancing guidelines

Courthouse spaces

- In-person customer interactions and service hours may be limited to ensure appropriate cleaning and limit possible exposure, and staff will be rotated
- Partitions and six feet floor marking will be sought
- Public seating in waiting areas will be limited
- Vending machines, water fountains, and other common area access will be limited



For more information contact your local court or visit mncourts.gov/emergency