

NONJURY COVID-19 ROLLBACK PLAN FOR THE ATASCOSA FRIO, KARNES, LaSALLE AND WILSON COUNTY JUDICIARIES

Recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, while lessening the previously adopted COVID-19 restrictions, the District, County, County Court at Law, AG / DFPS Court, and Justice Courts of Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle and Wilson Counties, Texas will implement the following protective measures:

General

All judges will comply with the Emergency Orders issued by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals, and this Rollback Plan. Any judge may impose more stringent requirements in their court. In person court *may* resume in Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle and Wilson Counties, not earlier than April 12, 2021, for County, County Court at Law, AG / DFPS Court, and Justice Courts, and May 1, 2021 for District Court.

Judge and Court Staff Health

1. Judges and court staff who can perform the essential functions of their job remotely may, with the approval of their supervisor, telework.
2. Judge and court staff self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and should evaluate themselves using the COVID-19 symptom checklist before entering any building. Court staff should remain home if they exhibit any symptoms or have had direct exposure to COVID-19. If court staff suspects exposure, they should notify their supervisor immediately and refrain from returning to work until cleared by the supervisor.

All Court Attendees Health

1. Anyone who enters a court building during court is a court attendee.
2. Court attendees who:
 - a. feel feverish,
 - b. have measured temperatures equal to or greater than 99.6°F,
 - c. have new or worsening signs or symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, withing the last 10 days,

- d. have had close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19, in the past 14 days (excluding those who have been fully immunized against COVID-19),

must alert the court of such, and will not be permitted to enter, or remain, in the court building, absent a showing of evidence satisfactory to the judge that there is no undue risk.

3. Court attendees are required to wear face coverings, or practice social distancing, as directed by the judge, in the courtroom, and any other area designated by the judge, and practice appropriate hygiene recommendations at all time.
4. Inmates being transported to the court building will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19, and have their temperature taken, prior to transport. Inmates with symptoms or a temperature equal to or above 99.6°F will not be transported to the court building.
5. Staff who are screening individuals entering the court building will be provided personal protective equipment, including face masks, gloves, and/or sanitizing equipment or products.
6. Disposable face masks and hand sanitizer will be made available to all court attendees.
7. Court building cleaning staff shall be trained on proper cleaning techniques, provided appropriate personal protective equipment, and cleaning supplies shown to be effective with this coronavirus.
8. Court building cleaning staff will clean the common areas of the court building so that common spaces are cleaned at least every business day.

Scheduling

1. The following court schedules are established to reduce occupancy in court buildings:
 - a. County Court and County Court at Law will be held pursuant to the dates previously identified by the County Judge and/or County Court at Law Judge.
 - b. District Court shall be held pursuant to the dockets maintained by the District Court Administrator.
 - c. AG/DFPS Court shall be set pursuant to the scheduled docket maintained by their respective Court Administrators.
 - d. AG/DFPS Courts are specifically authorized to follow their respective Department's guidance in determining when to resume in person court.

- e. Justice Court shall be held pursuant to the schedules for each court building submitted to and approved by the Local Administrative District Judge.

Jury Trials

Jury Trials may resume not earlier than June 1st for District Court, and May 1st for all other courts, under rules to be promulgated later.

Remote Participation and Vulnerable Populations

1. Vulnerable individuals include those over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy.
2. Upon request and good cause shown by a member of a vulnerable population, or any other court participant, other than a juror—including but not limited to a party, an attorney, a witness, or a court reporter—the court shall permit the court participant to participate remotely in any proceeding, subject to constitutional limitations.
3. Each judge will include information, either on orders setting hearings, dockets notices, and in other communications, or in a notice posted on the courts' website, and in conspicuous locations around the court building, information notifying court participants how to request remote participation.

I have attempted to confer with all judges of courts with courtrooms in the non-municipal court buildings regarding this Rollback Plan. This Rollback Plan sets the minimum health protocols for in person court proceedings and the public areas of the court buildings during court.

Date: 3/30/2021



Local Administrative District Judge
Honorable Russell Wilson