

FILED FOR RECORD
CASS COUNTY TEXAS
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GENERAL ORDER RELATING TO:
**Minimum Standard Health Protocols for the District, County Court at Law Court,
County Court, Justice of the Peace Courts and Municipal Courts of Cass County, Texas**

In accordance with the Texas Supreme Court's Thirty-Eighth Emergency Order regarding the COVID-19 State of Disaster and recognizing the need to consider the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, the courts of Cass County will implement the following minimum standard health protocols for court proceedings and the public attending court proceedings that will be employed in all courtrooms, subject to the discretion of the judge of the individual court:

1. All Judges will review the "Best Practices" as issued by the Texas Office of Court Administration, from time to time, and will consider the guidance set forth in the best practices for health and safety protocols, any protocols as offered by the Texas Department of State Health Services, and any protocols the U.S. Centers for Disease Control may issue. Each court will implement requirements for social distancing, face coverings, or other recommended protocols, as deemed appropriate, in the discretion of the presiding judge of the court, given spacing requirements and proceeding participants, but must permit any court participant or public member to wear face coverings, if so desired by that person, except when testifying.
2. All judges may continue to conduct proceedings remotely, at the discretion of the judge, and upon request and good cause shown by a court participant other than a juror— including but not limited to a party, an attorney, a witness, or a court reporter—a court must permit the participant to participate remotely in any proceeding, subject to constitutional limitations until the expiration of Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order 38 on August 1, 2021 or further order of the Texas Supreme Court.
3. All courts will acquire prior approval for all jury proceedings from the Local Administrative District Judge or presiding judge of municipal courts, as applicable until the expiration of Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order 38 on August 1, 2021 or further order of the Texas Supreme Court.
4. Any court conducting a jury trial will consider on the record, if a court of record, any objection or motion related to COVID-19 at least 7 days before the jury proceeding, and as soon as practicable if filed less than seven days before the jury proceeding until the expiration of Texas Supreme Court Emergency Order 38 on August 1, 2021 or further order of the Texas Supreme Court.
5. All courts will inquire into and permit all communication necessary to attempt to ensure that no parties, counsel, court personnel, witnesses, or other participants of any in-person proceeding have (i) tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous 10 days, (ii) have had symptoms of COVID -19 in the previous 10 days, or (iii) have any recent known exposure to COVID-19 within the previous 14 days.
6. All judges shall excuse or re-schedule any prospective juror who provides information regarding their recent COVID-19 infection or recent exposure and the Judges will excuse any prospective juror who provides information regarding a particular vulnerability to COVID-19 and requests to be excused or re-scheduled.

Signed: June 10, 2021


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Bill Miller, 5th Judicial District of Texas
Cass County Local Administrative District Judge