

MAR 18 2020

TINA E. LARGE, CLERK
CHILlicothe MUNICIPAL COURT
CHILlicothe, OHIO

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF CHILlicothe, OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF:

CVH 20 00001

MAINTENANCE OF COURT OPERATIONS
DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCYTEMPORARY ORDER

The Judges of the Chillicothe Municipal Court make the following Findings of Fact:

- The number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has continued to rise and includes confirmed cases of “community transfer”.
- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued Executive Order 2020-01D “Declaring a State of Emergency” on March 9, 2020 in response to the growing public health crisis.
- The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic on March 11, 2020 requiring “urgent and aggressive action” to control the spread of the virus.
- United States of America President Donald J. Trump of Ohio declared a “National Emergency” on March 13, 2020 as a result of the spread of the COVID-19 virus.
- Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor, Supreme Court of Ohio, has encouraged and instructed local courts to formulate plans that will allow courts to respond to the health concerns caused by COVID-19 and ensure that courts “meet [their] purpose and essential functions.”

Based on the foregoing, the Chillicothe Municipal Court has developed a continuum of flexible responses that will allow the Court to protect the health of the public and court employees, while continuing to serve the public and protect the rights of individuals appearing before the Court.

Therefore, the Court ORDERS as follows:

1. Local Rules. The Local Rules of the Chillicothe Municipal Court may be temporarily amended or adapted to allow Court flexibility, within Constitutional limits, in response to the public health emergency.
2. Security. The Court security policies may be temporarily amended or supplemented to protect the health of the public and court employees. Security policies may be amended or supplemented in any of the following manners:
 - a. Limitation of the number of persons entering the court facility
 - b. Restricting entrance to the court facility to certain persons who must appear for a case scheduled for a court proceeding on the date in question.
 - c. Subjecting persons to available health screening or testing.
 - d. Excluding from admission those persons who are exhibiting any flu-like symptoms, fever, cough or sneezing.

- e. Requiring any person exhibiting any of the aforementioned symptoms to wear a mask or to take other precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus or other infectious diseases.
- f. All other amendments or supplements deemed necessary by the Court.


3. Personnel Policy. The Court Employee Handbook or employment policies may be temporarily amended, adjusted, or supplemented to protect the health of court employees and to maintain essential court operations and functions.

4. Court Proceedings.


- a. The Court authorizes the use of audiovisual devices and technologies for all actions and proceedings. This includes but is not limited to use of video appearances for defendants held at the Ross County Jail for all proceedings unless otherwise ordered by the assigned judge.
- b. The public health emergency may be considered to be a finding of “just cause” for continuances deemed necessary by assigned judges on a case-by-case basis, or by the administrative judge if it is deemed necessary to protect the safety of the public.

5. Authority of the Court. The Court may exercise its lawful authority, within constitutional limits, to do all things necessary to ensure the orderly and efficient administration of justice for the duration of the declared public health emergency, or to issue such orders deemed necessary to accomplish the same.

SO ORDERED.



John B. Street
Administrative and Presiding Judge



Toni L. Eddy
Judge