

**Sending on behalf of Administrative Judge Brendan Sheehan:**

The Judges of the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court General Division met Wednesday afternoon to discuss the Court's ongoing response to COVID-19. The Judges approved several actions:

The Court is collaborating with the County Sheriff's Office, the County Prosecutor's Office, the Public Defender's Office, and MetroHealth Medical Center to address the potential for COVID-19 in the jail. Details of those plans are in discussion at this time. The goal is to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in the jail, while still meeting the safety needs of the community.

The Common Pleas Court Judges have agreed to suspend jury trials for the next month, unless a person's Constitutional right to a speedy trial is at stake. This includes both criminal and civil trials. This status will be re-evaluated at the next Judges' Meeting on Wednesday, April 8.

The Common Pleas Court judges will conduct as many pre-trials by phone or video conferencing as possible.

Beginning Monday, March 16, not all citizens summoned for jury duty will report in person to the 4th floor of the Justice Center. Instead, a telephone number will be provided for jurors to call to see if they need to report in person. Once that number and protocol are established, we will post the number on our website (CP.CUYAHOGACOUNTY.US) and Twitter feed. We will also provide it to the media for distribution.

The Court will continue to provide updates to the media as necessary.

If anyone from the media would like to speak with Administrative Judge Brendan Sheehan about today's actions, we will arrange a time.

Thank you

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