SUMMARY

7th Judicial District
Return to In-Person Operations Plan ("RIOP")
Phase II
To Commence June 3, 2020

On May 18, 2020 (May 20, 2020 for Cayuga County) the 7th Judicial District implemented Phase I of the RIOP (summary attached). All measures included in Phase I of the RIOP to protect the health and safety of the employees, judges, litigants, lawyers and members of the public who enter the courthouses pursuant to the Amended Return to In-Court Operations Plan dated May 14, 2020 will continue and be enhanced during Phase II.

The goal of Phase II is to increase foot traffic in the courthouse in a gradual, measured manner so that the Court can begin to address matters that require an in-person appearance. The success on Phase II depends upon the Court's ability to prioritize those matters that require an in-person appearance while continuing to maximize the use of virtual appearances.

- Phase II operates with certain presumptions:
  1. Essential Matters (except as follows in Number 2) will be conducted in-person and heard by the Assigned Judge.
  2. Criminal, Juvenile Delinquency and Mental Hygiene Law Proceedings pertaining to a hospitalized adult shall be virtual and heard by the Assigned Judge.
  3. Non-Essential matters shall be virtual and heard by the Assigned Judge.
  In all case types, a request to deviate from the presumption may be made to the Assigned Judge. If such request is granted, the Administrative Judge shall be notified.

- ADR shall be conducted virtually

- Steps shall be taken by staggering case types, court calendars and courtroom use, to reduce the number of court users entering the building at the same time and to reduce the number of court users congregating on any floor/at any courtroom.

- Non-judicial staffing levels may again be minimally increased to support necessary administrative functions such as adjournments/calendaring/chambers as well as to provide support for the increase in foot traffic into the courthouse. In-person court staff will rotate with non-reporting staff to work virtually.