

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Santa Clara County Superior Court Jury Trials to Resume with Enhanced Social Distancing Protocols

The Santa Clara County Superior Court will be resuming jury service and trials this week. Although the County and State Shelter-In-Place orders may continue into June and beyond, jury service continues to be a vital government function and all summoned jurors must report as directed.

“Jury service is the cornerstone of our democracy and one of our county and Court’s greatest assets,” said Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan. “Behind every jury trial are numerous citizens who have given their time and energy to further justice in Santa Clara County. As jurors are summoned back to Court and trials resume, the Court has implemented the highest levels of safety precautions and social distancing protocols in an effort to keep our community safe and healthy.”

The Court recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic and related health concerns are at the forefront of our prospective jurors’ minds when receiving a jury summons. We are committed to providing a safe, socially distanced, and well-sanitized environment for all who enter our courthouses. Therefore, the following steps, in adherence with all public safety and [social distancing guidelines](#), have been implemented:

All persons entering the courthouses:

1. [Must wear proper face coverings](#) in all public areas of the Court;
2. Should avoid entering the facility if they have COVID-19 symptoms;
3. Must maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet to the greatest extent feasible;
4. Should sneeze and cough into a cloth or tissue or, if those are not available, into one’s elbow;
5. Should not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact; and
6. Should follow tape and other markings placed on the floors to maintain proper social distance inside the Court.



Please visit the
[Superior Court’s Covid-19 response website](#)
for additional Court information

Consistent with the Social Distancing Protocols, the Court has also implemented:

1. Increased janitorial schedules to maintain sanitization (including wiping of elevators, button panels, door handles, and other high touch areas);
2. Increased supplies of hand sanitizer, sanitation wipes, gloves, and masks available to the public at or near the entrance of the facility;
3. Posted signage about washing hands and social distancing;
4. Updated seating arrangements to allow for six (6) feet of distance between all staff on-site (while many staff members to continue to work remotely) and informed employees not to come to work if sick;
5. Placed tape and other markings on the floors with signs directing court users to use the markings to maintain distance;
6. Disinfected all payment portals, pens, and styluses after each use; and
7. Screening of all persons at the entrance to determine the purpose of their visit. Only those required to be at Court are being allowed to enter in small numbers.

The Court is taking the following measures to ensure the safety of both prospective and empaneled jurors:

1. Fewer jurors will be directed to report to Court on any given day to allow for appropriate safeguards;
2. Prospective jurors will be called into the courthouse in offset and smaller groups to allow for additional social distancing to occur.
3. Jurors will be instructed to report on different days of the week in order to reduce the number of jurors present in Court on any one day;
4. Social distancing will be maintained throughout the entire jury trial process, from jury assembly and selection through deliberation;
5. Proper face coverings are required for everyone in the public areas of the courthouse; and
6. Jury deliberation will occur in spaces of sufficient size to ensure social distancing.

For more information on jury service, visit www.scscourt.org and click on “Jury Service” or visit the [Jury Service section](#) of the Judicial Council of California website.



Socially distanced juror seating with Plexiglas dividers, hand sanitizer, and wipes



Movable Plexiglas dividers for witness testimony



Attorney's tables and podium with Plexiglas dividers



Courtroom observation gallery with taped off seating, sanitizer and wipes available