

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON



JURY TRIAL PROTOCOL – COVID RESTRICTIONS

Generally

- Jurors will be summoned to arrive at staggered times on the first day of trial to avoid large queues at the court entrance, the elevators, and jury assembly rooms.
- Clerk's Office staff will be assigned elevator duty at the lobby floor and the courtroom floor to ensure that proper social distancing is maintained in the elevators.
- Jurors will be seated and spread out throughout the courtroom to ensure the greatest possible social distancing without prolonged disadvantage of view in the courtroom.
- At the end of each day of jury service, jurors will be admonished that should they develop symptoms overnight, they are to contact the Courtroom Deputy (CRD) and remain at home, as opposed to reporting for jury duty the following day.
- Should a juror, party, counsel, or witness become ill during the trial, the trial judge will suspend, delay or postpone the proceedings or declare a mistrial as the facts and conditions warrant.

Protective Measures in Courtroom

- Plexiglass shields will be placed at the Bench, between the judge and the witness, between the judge and the CRD/Court Reporter, and between the witness and the courtroom.
- Counsel will address the Court from Counsel Tables, rather than the Podium, to reduce the number of potential touch points exposed.
- Jurors will be seated throughout the courtroom, including the gallery, spaced per social distancing requirements with a clear path for witnesses, etc., to approach the stand while maintaining proper social distance.

- Jurors will wear masks throughout their term of service.
- Plastic covers for microphones will be placed by the Court's IT staff at the beginning of each day and will not be touched throughout each day of trial.
- Witnesses will testify from the witness stand without a mask. Court staff will wipe down the witness stand and microphone after each witness.
- Attorneys will sanitize their hands before and after their argument and will wipe down counsel table upon their departure from the courtroom each day.
- Evidence presentation will be accomplished electronically (no paper) using the AV systems in the courtroom to eliminate the need for handling evidence.
- Additional protocols (or variations of the protocols presented in this document) may be offered by the presiding judge for the case at hand.