

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JASPER COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT JOPLIN**

In Re: COVID-19

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2020-15

This Order supersedes this Court's Administrative Order 2020-12.

WHEREAS, the existence and spread of the COVID-19 has resulted in the declaration of a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared a National State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Joplin continues to reopen.

WHEREAS, the City of Joplin and Jasper County did see a spike of COVID-19 cases, and as a result the Court has remained at Phase II since May 30, 2020, and

WHEREAS, having consulted with local health officials and local judiciary partners, the Court makes the following findings based upon the Gateway Criteria:

1. There has been one confirmed COVID-19 case in one court facility. It has now been 14 days since the Court became aware of the employees exposure and no other confirmed COVID-19 cases have been confirmed among courthouse employees nor or any courthouse employees presently showing any symptoms of COVID-19.
2. The City of Joplin began relaxing group gathering restrictions and has not gone down in recovery phase, but does have a face mask requirement in the City of Joplin.
3. The number of quarantine patients has gone down substantially since the spike. Currently the hospitals have been able to treat all patients with COVID-19 and the Joplin City number of patients in the hospital has declined.
4. Consultation with local health officials has resulted in opinions for reopening the court and courthouse activities with precautionary measures and social distancing suggestions.
5. Consultation with local judiciary partners has divulged a great interest in reopening the court and courthouse activities.
6. Local conditions are improving sufficiently to allow the Court to progress to Phase III.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective July 20, 2020, Jasper County Circuit Court will enter Phase III with the following restrictions:

1. Members of the public who are not involved in a court proceeding will not be allowed to accompany court litigants to their proceedings unless individual Judges allow so social distancing requirements can continue.
2. Occupancy rates in courtrooms and jury assembly rooms will be dictated by social distancing. Hallways, courtrooms, and jury assembly rooms will be marked with blue tape to be used to demark six-foot distances where practical. Courtrooms, jury assembly rooms, and hallways in the Courts Building and Juvenile Building Courtroom and waiting area are unable to accommodate 25 people at a time and maintain social distancing protocols. Therefore, in the Courts Building and Juvenile Center the courtrooms, jury assembly rooms and hallways will be limited to the number of people that can be placed in those areas with social distancing.
3. The use of masks or face coverings by attorneys, parties, witnesses, or victims is required in hallways, Circuit Clerks Office, Juvenile Center and Joplin Library due to the requirement of the City of Joplin. However, each judge will decide when mask are required to be worn in the well of the court by attorneys and witnesses during court proceedings, and the area considered the well of the court in Joplin Library. All court personnel are to use masks or face coverings upon leaving their individual office space and entering public areas. Those who do not have a mask will be provided a mask.
4. Extra cleaning and disinfecting will occur throughout each day and hand sanitizer will be made available.
5. Continue to use available technologies such as teleconferences and video conferencing whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.
6. Jury trials will be held in the Joplin Library. Social distancing will continue.
7. Individuals will not be allowed access to the courts who have been exposed to or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
8. Municipal Courts in Jasper County are governed by this Order except their applicable occupancy limit in waiting areas or seating areas that are not in their court area has an occupancy limit based upon maintaining social distancing requirements

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that effective July 20, 2020, until further order of this Court, that the following persons shall not enter the Jasper County Courts Building, Memorial Hall, or the Jasper County Juvenile Building in Joplin, Missouri:

- Persons who have traveled to any foreign county within the last 14 days;
- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has traveled to any foreign country within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;
- Persons who have tested positive, been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; and
- Persons with fevers, or unexplained coughs or shortness of breath.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by Court Security.

Any attorney or party shall immediately notify opposing counsel and the court if they reasonably suspect that a participant in any proceeding authorized by this Court's Administrative Order 2020-12 may come within any of the above listed categories.

If you have a scheduled appointment or you are otherwise required to appear at one of the offices or divisions of the Jasper County Courts Building in Joplin, Missouri, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions listed above, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you need information about the status of your case, please consult Casenet or contact the Circuit Clerk's Office at 417-625-4310;
- If you are a prospective Juror, please contact the Jury Supervisor at 417-625-4362;
- If you are seeking an Order of Protection regarding adult/child abuse, please contact 417-625-4310;

- If you have any business concerning juvenile matters, please contact the Juvenile Center at 417-625-4300.
- For Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney matters, please contact the Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney at 417-625-4314;
- For Jasper County Public Defender matters, please contact the Missouri Public Defender at 417-627-0668;
- For Jasper County Sheriff matters or jail, please call the Sheriff's main line at 417-625-1601.

For safety reasons, these restrictions will remain in place until further order of this Court. Those individuals who think that they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

If you have any questions as to this Administrative Order, please contact the Clerk of the Court, Melissa Holcomb, at 417-625-4310.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated July 20, 2020



Gayle L. Crane
Presiding Judge
Jasper County Circuit Court