

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
VERMILION COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-3  
RELAXING SOME MITIGATION MEASURES PERTAINING TO  
COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Circuit Court for Vermilion County in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois adopts the following administrative order pertaining to court operations during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19] pandemic:

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, MR. 30370*, directing all courts to establish and periodically update procedures to minimize potential exposure to and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on judicial operations, while continuing to provide access to justice, and further directed that all non-essential matters and proceedings be continued or, if feasible, conducted remotely; and on March 20, 2020 entered an Order authorizing the continuance of all civil and criminal jury trials for sixty (60) days, and suspending speedy trial terms during said time period; and on April 7, 2020 entered an Order authorizing the continuance of all civil and criminal jury trials and all juvenile trials until further order of the Court, and suspending speedy trial terms in all criminal and juvenile cases during said time period; and on May 20, 2020 entered an Order authorizing each Circuit to return to hearing court matters, whether in person or remotely, according to a schedule to be adopted for each County by the Chief Circuit Judge; and on that day also issued guidelines for resuming court operations;

**WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020 the Governor of the State of Illinois, pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7, issued a statewide emergency disaster declaration authorizing the exercise of all of the emergency powers provided by said Act; and on March 20, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 8, ordering and directing all citizens of the State to remain at home or other place of residence unless performing an essential function; the terms and provisions of said Order were to be effective until April 7, 2020, unless otherwise extended by further order; and from time-to-time since then the Governor has extended the term of said Emergency Disaster Declaration and Executive Order;

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2020, the Chief Circuit Judge entered an Administrative Order continuing all civil and criminal jury trials within the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit for sixty (60) days, and suspending speedy trial terms during said period; and on April 7, 2020, entered an Administrative Order continuing all civil and criminal jury trials and all juvenile trials within the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit until further order of the court, and suspending speedy trial terms during said period; and on May 28, 2020, the Chief Circuit Judge entered an Administrative Order authorizing the resumption of civil and criminal jury trials, and juvenile delinquency trials within Vermilion County as of July 6, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Presiding Circuit Judge for Vermilion County has been granted temporary emergency administrative authority to enter orders affecting the general operation of the Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse [the Courthouse] pursuant to authority granted by the Chief Circuit Judge under Supreme Court Rule 21(b);

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020, pursuant to said authorities, the Presiding Judge of Vermilion County entered Administrative Order No. 2020-1, directing that measures be taken in response to the pandemic, intending to balance health and safety concerns with the need to continue to provide essential court services to the citizens of the County; and on March 25, 2020 the Presiding Judge entered Administrative Order No. 2020-5 amending Administrative Order No. 2020-1 by adopting superseding provisions; and on April 1, 2020 the Presiding Judge entered Administrative Order No. 2020-6 amending Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1 and 2020-5 by adopting superseding provisions; and on April 30, 2020 the Presiding Judge entered Administrative Order No. 2020-9 amending Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1, 2020-5, and 2020-6 by adopting superseding provisions. All of these measures restricted access to the Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse; incorporated the use of videoconferencing and teleconferencing to minimize personal contact; followed social distancing practices; and temporarily suspended non-essential court functions through May 29, 2020, subject to discretionary exceptions authorized by the judge presiding over a specific case;

**WHEREAS**, on May 26, 2020, the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County, having considered local public health data and the recommendations of local health agencies based upon that data, deemed that public health conditions within the County then permitted a resumption of Courthouse operations in a measured and structured manner to minimize in-person contact, protect the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons, and the community at large, and mitigate the risk of resurgence of the COVID-19 virus, while fulfilling the judiciary's mission to protect the rights and liberties of the People by providing equal access to justice, resolving disputes, upholding the law, providing essential services to the citizens of the County, and attending the court's administrative responsibilities;

**WHEREAS**, on said date, the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County, acting through the Presiding Judge, having balanced public health and safety considerations with the need for judicial access and openness, and considered those factors specifically set forth in the Supreme Court Order entered May 20, 2020, adopted Administrative Order No. 2020-12 adopting a plan for the resumption of all court operations in measured and structured manners;

**WHEREAS**, on November 23, 2020, the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County, having considered local public health data and the recommendations of local health agencies based upon that data, deemed that public health conditions within the County necessitated a temporary suspension of all

jury trials in the Courthouse in order to minimize in-person contact, protect the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons, and the community at large, and mitigate the resurgence of the COVID-19 virus, and adopted Administrative Order No. 2020-17, which temporarily suspended jury trials in the Courthouse and implemented other measures designed to protect the health of the public and Courthouse personnel;

**WHEREAS**, on January 15, 2021, the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County, having considered local public health data and the recommendations of local health agencies based upon that data, deemed that public health conditions within the County allowed for the resumption of jury trials within the Courthouse, and adopted Administrative Order 2021-1, which approved and implemented a plan addressing the backlog of cases awaiting trial;

**WHEREAS**, since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused extraordinary sickness and loss of life, infecting over 9,900 Vermilion County residents, and taking the lives of 138 residents;

**WHEREAS**, since March 2020, the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County considered changing national, state, and local public health data and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH], and local public health agencies based upon that data, and adopted measures designed to protect the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons while fulfilling the judiciary's mission to protect the rights and liberties of the People by providing equal access to justice;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 vaccines have been developed that are readily available to all residents of Vermilion County and effective at preventing COVID-19, especially severe illness and death; however, the disease continues to pose a considerable risk to Vermilion County residents particularly in light of the significant percentage of the population that remains unvaccinated;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC and the IDPH recently updated their recommendations for fully vaccinated people, providing that they no longer need to wear a face-covering nor physically distance in any non-healthcare setting, except where required by federal, state, or local, laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance;

**WHEREAS**, the CDC and IDPH guiding principles for these updated recommendations are:

- Indoor and outdoor activities pose minimal risk to fully vaccinated people;
- Fully vaccinated people have a reduced risk of transmitting COVID-19 to unvaccinated people;
- Fully vaccinated people should still get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms; and
- Fully vaccinated people should not visit private or public settings if they have tested positive for COVID-19 in the prior ten (10) days or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

**WHEREAS**, the CDC, IDPH, and local health officials continue to advise that cloth face coverings or masks protect persons who are not fully vaccinated from COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, the number of new COVID-19 cases in Vermilion County has decreased in recent weeks, and the public health metrics now allow for the Courthouse to relax some mitigation measures as more County residents have been fully vaccinated;

**WHEREAS**, on May 27, 2021, in light of the most recent CDC and IDPH recommendations, the Illinois Supreme Court amended its Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, MR. 30370*, authorizing the trial courts to no longer mandate that fully vaccinated people, who are two weeks past their final vaccine injection, wear face-coverings while in a courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**, the Circuit Judges of Vermilion County judges, having consulted local public health officials regarding revisions to the mitigation measures currently in place for the safe operation of the Courthouse in light of the recent recommendations of the CDC and IDPH, and further having considered the direction of the Illinois Supreme Court (*e.g.*, *MR. 303070* and its amendments), and **FINDING** it is now necessary and appropriate to amend prior administrative orders entered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic while taking into account the mandate of the court to provide access to justice and protect the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons, acting through the Presiding Judge, adopt the following provisions as the order of the court:

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

- 1. Effective Date.** This administrative order is effective June 3, 2021 and its precautionary measures shall remain in effect until amended or modified by further order of the court.
- 2.** The provisions of Administrative Order Nos. 2020-1 through 2020-12, 2020-17, and 2021-1 are hereby supplemented, and to the extent inconsistent herewith superseded.
- 3. Intent of this Administrative Order.** The intent of this administrative order is to safely and conscientiously, and in a manner consistent with CDC, IDPH, and local health agencies' guidance, expand activities that were restricted and limited pursuant to the administrative orders referred to in paragraph 2 above.

For purposes of this administrative order, "fully vaccinated" means being two weeks past the final vaccine injection.

- 4. Resumption of Court Operations.** It is anticipated that the Courthouse offices will continue to operate at full capacity, subject to the discretion of elected office-holders and department heads to determine how best to implement staffing and face-to-face appointments within their respective offices (including through the use of remote systems), all staffing decisions shall be

in conformity with the County Board's Personnel Policies as may be amended from time-to-time.

Court operations will function as scheduled by Court Administration, excepting jury trials, which shall continue to be scheduled in accordance with Administrative Order 2021-1, entered January 15, 2021.

It is the intention of the court to continue to respect and abide by the public health recommendations of the CDC, IDPH, and the County's Health Department regarding social distancing and continue to reduce the number of persons in the Courthouse at any given time in order to best protect the health of those who are required to be present. Maintaining personal hygiene, social distancing, and wearing face-coverings as directed are critical for a continuation of normal court operations, and the public's cooperation and patience is appreciated. As noted in the Supreme Court guidelines for resuming operations: "Most individuals do not come to court by choice. As such, courts have a particularly compelling responsibility to make certain that courthouses are safe. Procedures that involve large numbers of individuals, such as ... jury duty, need to be implemented in a manner that not only assures safety but also makes individuals *feel* safe before and after they arrive at the courthouse."

5. **General Restrictions upon Entry into Courthouse.** If a non-fully-vaccinated person has traveled to any place to which travel restrictions have been placed by agencies of the federal government within the last twenty-one (21) days; resides or has had close contact with someone who has traveled to one of these areas within the last twenty-one (21) days; has been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital, clinic, physician, or health agency; has been diagnosed with, or has had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or has flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, he/she must not enter the Courthouse.

If a fully vaccinated person has been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital, clinic, physician, or health agency; has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or has flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath, he/she must not enter the Courthouse.

Non-fully-vaccinated older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular or lung disease, long-term kidney disease, or a weakened immune system should exercise caution and discretion in determining whether to enter the Courthouse.

If any person meets the above criteria and is scheduled to appear at any hearing before the court, he/she must notify the Court Administrator, preferably prior to the date of appearance, so that appropriate safeguard measures may be taken or the hearing continued. Judges will

consider all requests for a continuance on a case-by-case basis. It is recommended that all such requests be supported by medical documentation of the health condition. Attorneys and/or litigants who are unable to be present in courtrooms may be able to appear remotely with the permission of the judge presiding over the hearing.

A Notice advising the public of these restrictions upon entry into the Courthouse, in a form substantially as that attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall be posted at the entrance to the Courthouse and upon the County's website.

Subject to constitutional limitations, entry into the Courthouse for hearings shall continue to be limited to attorneys, named litigants, and necessary witnesses. The court strongly encourages litigants not to bring family, friends, or spectators to court appearances in any case. The courtrooms remain open to the public to the extent required by law, but judges are authorized, and will enforce a limit upon the number of persons who may be present and observe proceedings from the public gallery areas. The limits may be fewer than the capacity of the courtrooms in order to comply with recommended social distancing standards. Moreover, consistent with CDC, IDPH, and local health agencies' social distancing recommendations, in order to maintain an appropriate limit of persons present within the Courthouse at any given time, visitors who are solely present to observe hearings may be denied entry to the Courthouse by court security.

All persons within the Courthouse, including employees, are encouraged to be alert for symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath; cover coughs and sneezes; stay home when sick; wash hands often with soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; avoid close contact with people who are sick; and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.

In order to comply with social distancing guidelines, excepting security personnel accompanying a person in custody, no more than two (2) non-fully vaccinated persons shall be present in an elevator cab at any given time.

- 6. Health/Wellness Screenings.** All persons entering the Courthouse remain subject to a health or wellness screening to determine compliance with the general restrictions for entry, i.e., COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

The court will not routinely screen persons in the Courthouse to determine their vaccination status, but reserves the right to inquire as to any person's vaccination status and/or require evidence thereof. An attorney's election to not wear a face-covering in the Courthouse will be interpreted as a representation to the court under Supreme Court Rule 3.3 that the attorney has been fully vaccinated.

7. **Face-Coverings/Masks.** Any person who is not fully vaccinated and over two (2) years of age entering the public spaces of the Courthouse, and who is able to medically tolerate a face-covering, shall wear a face-covering or mask at all times when located within the indoor public spaces of the Courthouse and shall, when possible, maintain appropriate social distance. This provision applies to all persons entering the Courthouse, including, but not limited to all State and County employees and elected officials essential to court operations (judges, court administration staff, deputy circuit clerks, state's attorney's staff, public defender staff, court security, court reporters and specialists, probation services staff, building and grounds staff, information technology staff, and the like), attorneys, litigants, witnesses, and vendors.

Fully vaccinated persons shall not be required to wear a face-covering or mask when located within the indoor public spaces of the Courthouse. For purposes of this administrative order, "indoor public spaces" shall not include office or work spaces, nor courtrooms.

Subject to the discretion of elected office-holders and department heads, fully vaccinated courthouse personnel may remove their face covering or mask in their office or work space; and, subject to the discretion of elected office-holders and department heads, such personnel who are not fully vaccinated may remove their face covering or mask in their office or work space when able to maintain recommended social distance.

All persons inside a courtroom, who are able to medically tolerate a face-covering, including courtroom personnel, jurors, attorneys, parties, court security, and witnesses, including law enforcement personnel, must wear a face covering or mask at all times while inside of the courtroom. Litigants, attorneys or others may remove their face covering or mask only when directed or authorized to do so by the judge presiding over the hearing.

Nothing in this administrative order prevents any person, even if fully vaccinated, from wearing facial coverings should he/she choose to do so.

All persons, who are not fully vaccinated, and who enter the public spaces of the Courthouse, and all persons who enter a courtroom are expected to have their own face-covering. Court Administration will continue to provide Courthouse security personnel with a limited supply of face-coverings. Any person who does not have a face-covering and needs access to the Courthouse will, when available, be provided with a face-covering. If a person enters the Courthouse without a face covering or mask when one will be required for such person's purpose for entry and none are available from security personnel, entrance to the Courthouse may be denied, and entry to any courtroom will be denied unless otherwise authorized by the judge presiding over the hearing.

8. **Courthouse Environment/Facilities.** All practical measures should continue to be taken within the Courthouse and courtrooms to ensure a clean environment and mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Hand sanitizer shall be provided within the Courthouse and courtrooms. Facility crews shall conduct regular cleanings with an emphasis on disinfecting first-touch areas such as railings, doors knobs, counters, and areas inside elevators and restrooms. Court personnel shall conduct regular disinfecting of touch areas inside of courtrooms such as keyboards, desk tops, counters, and chairs.

Court Administration shall continue to coordinate with the County Board, Sheriff, and the County's Building & Grounds Department to modify courtrooms and other Courthouse facilities as is as necessary to maintain social distancing recommendations in order to protect the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons while fulfilling the judiciary's mission to provide access to justice, particularly as this mission relates to the conduct of jury trials.

9. **Remote Hearings.** The Supreme Court, in Supreme Court Rules 45, 46, and 241, along with its Remote Court Proceedings – Guidance Document, authorizes and encourages the use of remote technology to conduct court proceedings, including the taking of testimony, finding the use of such technology increases accessibility to the courts, aids in the efficient administration of justice, avoids delays in trials, and more efficiently administers testimony for case participants who face an obstacle to appearing personally in court such as illness, disability, or distance from the Courthouse.

The guidelines and protocols for conducting hearings remotely (both teleconference and videoconference hearings) previously adopted as a local rule of this court remain in full force and effect.

The court continues to recommend conducting hearings in both civil and criminal cases remotely (through videoconference and/or teleconference) where appropriate. Courts throughout the nation have taken advantage of technology during the COVID-19 pandemic and integrated its usage into courtrooms. Since many social distancing guidelines remain in place and may well continue past the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the intention of the court that remote hearings become a part of our court's permanent operations.

The court recognizes that certain proceedings, both civil and criminal, do not lend themselves to being conducted remotely. Therefore, the determination as to the appropriateness of the use of remote technology remains a discretionary decision of the judge presiding over the hearing.



Subject to the discretion of the judge presiding over the hearing, in-custody hearings where the defendant's personal presence is not mandated or is waived may be conducted via the Courthouse/Public Safety Building videoconference system.

**10. Approval of Online Parenting Education Programs.** The court shall continue to consider and approve the curriculum and competencies of online parenting education programs, the satisfactory completion of which would meet a parent's obligations under Supreme Court Rule 924.

**11. Courtroom Conduct.** The judge presiding over a hearing may evaluate and determine where attorneys, bailiffs, litigants, court reporters, interpreters, and witnesses are situated within the courtroom and rearrange the positions as necessary to maintain social distancing. As a general rule, counsel and litigants present in any courtroom shall remain seated at counsel table and maintain a safe distance between themselves, other counsel, and courtroom personnel at all times, unless otherwise allowed by the judge presiding over the hearing. All persons present in any courtroom or public space of the Courthouse shall follow all instructions/markings employed to facilitate or identify social distancing spacing, as well as all instructions of court security personnel and bailiffs.

**12. Sunday/Holiday Bond Court.** Sunday/Holiday Bond Court hearings shall continue to be conducted remotely through use of the Courthouse/Public Safety Building videoconference system.

**13. Grand Jury Proceedings.** A Notice to Prospective Grand Jurors regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, in a form substantially as that attached hereto as Exhibit B, shall accompany each summons.

Persons called for grand jury duty, and all other persons participating in any grand jury proceeding, including attorneys, courthouse personnel, court security, and witnesses, including law enforcement personnel, while within the grand jury courtroom, shall continue to wear face coverings throughout the entirety of the grand jury proceedings.

**14. Jury Trials.** The provisions of Administrative Order 2021-1 adopting the court's plan addressing the backlog of cases awaiting trial, to the extent not inconsistent with the provisions of this administrative order, remain in full force and effect.

A Notice to Prospective Jurors regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, in a form substantially as that attached hereto as Exhibit C, shall accompany each summons.

Persons called for jury duty, and all other persons participating in any jury trial, including attorneys, parties, courthouse personnel, court security, and witnesses, including law

enforcement personnel, while within the jury assembly room, courtroom, and deliberation room, shall continue to wear face coverings throughout the entirety of the jury selection process and trial, unless otherwise directed not to do so by the judge presiding over the trial.

The court, jury commission, and Circuit Clerk shall continue to monitor local public health data and implement social distancing and other precautionary measures based upon the recommendations of local health agencies to best protect the health and safety of prospective jurors, attorneys, litigants, Courthouse personnel and patrons.

**15. High Volume Calls.** The process of staggering high-volume calls into multiple settings will continue to be utilized in order to maintain social distancing protocols inside of courtrooms and in the Courthouse hallways. Subject to the discretion of the judge presiding over the Division, no more than twenty (20) cases shall be scheduled each hour (depending upon the historical appearance rate), with a target of fifteen (15) hearings.

**16. Waivers of Personal Appearances/Agreed Orders/Pleas.** Except in criminal felony cases (where personal appearances are now required), where a litigant is represented by counsel, agreed waivers of personal appearances, with counsel accepting notice on behalf of his/her client, and shall continue to be encouraged. Likewise, agreed orders/written pleas in traffic and misdemeanor cases are also encouraged.

**17. Payment Due Dates:** The Circuit Clerk shall continue to accept payments for court-ordered assessments, fines, fees, costs, restitution, and maintenance (alimony). Nothing in this or prior administrative orders shall be construed as extending the due date of maintenance or child support payments.

The public is reminded that certain traffic tickets may be paid by mail, online, or at the Circuit Clerk's window. For more information, the public should call: (217) 554-7720. In order to minimize personal contacts, the public is encouraged to pay eligible traffic tickets by mail or online.

**18. Notices to Appear.** Until further order of the court, the discretion of all law enforcement officers, authorized by Administrative Order Nos. 2020-3, 2020-4, 2020-7, 2020-10, and 2020-12 to satisfy the obligation of certain warrants, bonds, or civil bench warrants by issuing the defendants/arrestees a notice to appear, or alternatively, releasing the defendants/arrestees on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond without the necessity of appearing before the court is extended.

**19. Adult and Juvenile Probation.** The Department of Court and Probation Services will continue to operate at full capacity, subject to the discretion of the Director to limit in-person

contacts, suspend certain large group meetings, and implement staffing (including the use of remote access) within the Department.

Probationers should contact their probation officer via telephone and follow his/her directions. Probationers should not appear at the probation office unless otherwise directed.

**20. Juvenile Detention Center.** The Director of the Juvenile Detention Center may continue to implement visitation and transport procedures for minors held at the Detention Center in order to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19 as authorized by Administrative Order Nos. 2020-2 and 2020-8, and 2020-12, including suspending all travel, transports, and returns of juveniles, by Detention Center staff, to and from the Detention Center, to and from any location outside of Vermilion County. Nothing in this administrative order shall be construed as prohibiting personnel from other counties from transporting and returning juvenile detainees to and from the Detention Center, nor of prohibiting the Detention Center from admitting juveniles who have been so transported and returned from outside Vermilion County to the facility.

The Director of the Detention Center is authorized to implement policies for the medical screening of juveniles presented to the Detention Center for admission and/or return to determine the presence of symptoms of COVID-19, refuse to accept custody of juveniles who exhibit such symptoms, and deny their admission to the facility until such time as they have received medical clearance. Non-essential personnel/visitors may be denied access to the facility to ensure the health and safety of minor detainees and Detention Center staff.

**21. Waiver of GAL In-Person Contacts.** The guardian ad litem in-person interview requirements pursuant to 705 ILCS 405/2-17(8) are continued to be waived until further order of the court. Such contacts may be conducted by telephone, video, or other electronic means.

**22. Marriages and Civil Unions.** The court will continue to perform marriage and civil union ceremonies in the Courthouse. However, only the two individuals being married or joining in a civil union, plus two (2) witnesses, are permitted to attend the ceremony. Additional people, including family and friends, will be denied access to the Courthouse, and not allowed to attend.

**23. Miscellaneous.**

- a. The court may issue further orders as necessary to address circumstances and conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including re-assessing the provisions of this administrative order, to determine if additional measures are required to protect court

personnel and the public, and/or whether public health conditions warrant the easing of precautionary measures.

- b. It is further ordered that this administrative order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Vermilion County, Illinois and be made available to the public.
- c. The Clerk of the Circuit Court is to post this administrative order on her website.
- d. This administrative order shall be posted upon the County's website.
- e. This administrative order is effective *instanter*.

**Dated:** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2021



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Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy, Presiding Judge

Exhibit A

**IF YOU ARE NOT FULLY VACCINATED FROM COVID-19, YOU SHOULD NOT ENTER THE COURTHOUSE IF YOU:**

- You have been in China, Italy, Iran, or South Korea within the last 14 days;
- You reside or have had close contact with someone who has been in one of these countries within the last 14 days; or
- You have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital, clinic, physician, or health agency; or
- You have been diagnosed with, have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
- You have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

**IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED FROM COVID-19, YOU SHOULD NOT ENTER THE COURTHOUSE IF YOU:**

- You have been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital, clinic, physician, or health agency; or
- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
- You have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

**Instead, you should immediately call the Court Administrator at 217/554-7830 and report your situation for instructions on how to proceed.**

**If you have a scheduled appearance or were otherwise directed to attend court today, you will not be penalized for your absence provided you call the Court Administrator.**

## EXHIBIT B

### COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS FOR GRAND JURORS

The presence of the coronavirus/COVID-19 in our community continues to require vigilance from all of us.

For the protection of grand jurors, the Jury Commission is implementing the following protective measures after review of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Vermilion County Health Department:

- Thorough daily cleaning of the County Administration Building;
- Calling in a smaller number of grand jurors (only the essential amount needed);
- Implementing social distancing protocols with proper signage and traffic control; and
- Providing hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

Grand Jury proceedings are a foundation of our criminal justice system. You have been summoned to serve only because your service is essential. We encourage you to consider the following personal precautions while at the County Administration Building:

- Attempt to keep a six-foot distance between yourself and others;
- You will be required to wear a face-covering while in the grand jury courtroom. We encourage you to bring one if you are able.
- Wash your hands often and remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow.

### POSTPONEMENT OF GRAND JURY SERVICE

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you fall within any of the high-risk categories listed below, you may call or email the Office of the State's Attorney and request a 12-month postponement of your service:

- People 65 years and older;
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility;
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;
- People who have serious heart conditions;
- People who are immunocompromised;
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher);
- People with diabetes;
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;
- People with liver disease.

**Any juror appearing for grand jury duty with a temperature, COVID-type symptoms or who has been exposed to a positive case in the past 14 days will not be allowed to serve.**

If you have any questions or you want to request postponement of your grand jury service you must call or email us within 10 days of receiving this notice. You may contact the Vermilion State's Attorney at 217-554-7750 (Katie Taylor) or by email [katie.taylor@vercounty.org](mailto:katie.taylor@vercounty.org).

## EXHIBIT C

### COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS FOR PETIT JURORS

The presence of the coronavirus/COVID-19 in our community requires vigilance from all of us. The Court temporarily paused the summoning of jurors in response to guidance from public health officials. Consistent with that same guidance, we are resuming jury trials beginning in July.

For the protection of jurors, the Jury Commission is implementing the following protective measures after review of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Vermilion County Health Department:

- Thorough daily cleaning of the Courthouse;
- Calling in a smaller number of jurors (only the essential amount needed);
- Implementing social distancing protocols with proper signage and traffic control; and
- Providing hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.

Jury trials are the bedrock of our justice system. You have been summoned to serve only because your service is essential. If you are called and selected, you will only be asked to hear one case. We encourage you to consider the following personal precautions while at the Courthouse:

- Attempt to keep a six-foot distance between yourself and others;
- You will be required to wear a face-covering while within the jury assembly room, courtroom, and deliberation room. We encourage you to bring one if you are able.
- Wash your hands often and remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or use the inside of your elbow.

### POSTPONEMENT OF JURY SERVICE

Based on currently available information and clinical expertise, older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you fall within any of the high-risk categories listed below, you may call or email the Vermilion County Jury Coordinator and request a 12-month postponement of your jury service:

- People 65 years and older;
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility;
- People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma;
- People who have serious heart conditions;
- People who are immunocompromised;
- People with severe obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or higher);
- People with diabetes;
- People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis;
- People with liver disease;

**Any juror appearing for jury duty with a temperature, COVID-type symptoms or who has been exposed to a positive case in the past 14 days will not be allowed to serve.**

If you have any questions or you want to request postponement of your jury service you must call or email us within 10 days of receiving this notice. You can call us at **217-554-7865** or by email **kdixon@vercounty.org**.