



JUDGE DANITA W. SMITH, LEXINGTON MUNICIPAL COURT

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COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Lexington Municipal Court

Recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the buildings housing the courts, the court will implement the following protective measures:

General

1. All judges will comply with the Emergency Orders issued by the Supreme Court of Texas and Court of Criminal Appeals, including conducting in-person proceedings according to the guidance issued by the Office of Court Administration regarding social distancing, maximum group size, and other restrictions and precautions.
2. All judges will use all reasonable efforts to conduct court proceedings.
3. The presiding judge of the municipal court will maintain regular communication with the local health authority and mayor and adjust the operating plan as necessary with conditions in the city.

Social Distancing

1. All persons not from the same household who are permitted in the court building will be required to maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet.
2. The maximum number of persons permitted in the courtroom has been set at 10. The maximum capacity of the courtroom will be monitored and enforced by court staff.
3. The gallery of the courtroom has been marked to identify appropriate social distancing in the seating.

Face Coverings

1. All individuals entering the court building will need to wear face coverings at all times.
2. Individuals are encouraged to bring cloth face coverings with them.

Hygiene

1. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed at the entrances to the building
2. Tissues have been placed at counsel table, at the witness stand, on the judges' benches

Screening

1. When individuals attempt to enter the court building, court staff will ask the individuals if they are feeling feverish; have a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or have been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19. Individuals who indicate yes to any of these questions will be refused admittance to the court building.
2. When individuals attempt to enter the court building, court staff will use an infrared thermometer to determine the temperature of the individual. Individuals whose temperature equals or exceeds 100.0°F will be refused admittance to the court building.

Vulnerable Populations

Accommodations will be made for all vulnerable citizens attending court.

1. Individuals who are age 65 or older
2. Individuals with serious underlying health conditions

Cleaning

1. Court building cleaning staff will clean the common areas of the court building so that common spaces are cleaned before court proceedings.
2. Court building cleaning staff have been provided cleaning supplies shown to be effective with this coronavirus.

Please be assured that the Lexington Municipal Court is doing all that it can to protect the citizens, defendants and staff members through this epidemic. As we strive for safety please be considerate of others, wear a mask and continue to practice social distancing while in the courtroom. For your safety only 10 people will be allowed in the courtroom at one time. Please respect the timeslot you have been assigned. We thank you for your cooperation during this epidemic as we focus on everyone's safety.

Thank you,
Lexington Municipal Court

Court location: Woodson's Community Center (green building)
631 North Rockdale
Lexington, Tx 78947