



Eileen T. Gallagher
Administrative Judge
Eighth District Court of Appeals



Brendan J. Sheehan
Presiding & Administrative Judge
General Division



Michelle D. Earley
Administrative Judge
Cleveland Municipal Court

To: The Citizens of Cuyahoga County

From: Administrative Judge Eileen T. Gallagher, Eighth District Court of Appeals
Administrative Judge Brendan J. Sheehan, The Court of Common Pleas, General Division
Presiding & Administrative Judge Anthony J. Russo, Cuyahoga County Probate Court
Administrative Judge Leslie Ann Celebrezze, Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court
Administrative Judge Thomas F. O'Malley, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
Administrative Judge Michelle D. Earley, Cleveland Municipal Court

The Courts have been closely following media reports on the coronavirus, known as COVID-19, and the expectations of health officials in combatting the spreading of this virus. According to the CDC, for most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to the virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low. Local health experts caution that we are currently in the midst of the flu season, so the spread of flu remains a health concern as well. As we track this evolving situation related to COVID-19, we are preparing to take any measures necessary to keep our staff and the public safe.

We will continue to monitor reports from federal, state and local health experts as this situation continues to unfold. In an effort to stay ahead of this issue, we will be meeting with the County's Board of Health to discuss the steps that we should take to minimize the risk of spreading infectious diseases throughout the Courthouses.

The County Board of Health recommends the following precautions be practiced by everyone in our community to minimize the spread of respiratory illness:

- If you have the flu, talk to your doctor about antiviral medications that can reduce flu severity;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially:
 - after using the restroom;
 - before eating;
 - after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a sleeve or tissue when sneezing or coughing, or sneeze into your elbow;
- Have hand sanitizer available with at least 60% alcohol and use frequently;
- Keep surfaces cleaned with an alcohol-based cleaning product;
- Stay home if you are ill;
- Stay alert for changing conditions announced by the Courts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should only be worn by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. It is important to preserve masks for hospital care and EMS transport personnel. More information can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

According to health experts, most COVID-19 patients may experience flu-like symptoms, including a fever that can be treated at home with ibuprofen, drinking plenty of fluids, and rest. If symptoms arise, consider using any available telemedicine options with your medical provider to prevent the spread of illness to others. However, the County Board of Health recommends you visit a doctor, urgent care, or emergency department if you are sick—do not take chances.

The Courts remain open for business as usual. If there are any changes to the Courts' schedules, notices will be posted to our websites at the following:

Eighth District Court of Appeals: <https://appeals.cuyahogacounty.us/>

Common Pleas Court, General Division: <https://cp.cuyahogacounty.us/>

Cuyahoga County Probate Court: <http://probate.cuyahogacounty.us/Default.aspx>

Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court: <http://domestic.cuyahogacounty.us/en-us/home.aspx>

Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division: <http://juvenile.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/home.aspx>

Cleveland Municipal Court: <https://clevelandmunicipalcourt.org/Default.aspx>