

17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA
BROWARD COUNTY COURTHOUSE
201 S.E. 6TH STREET, SUITE 20170
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301



TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
MEREDITH BUSH, COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

For Immediate Release

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BROWARD COURTS TRANSITION TO PHASE 2

Fort Lauderdale, FL – After seven months of COVID-19-related Phase 1 operations throughout Broward County's courthouses, the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit will transition to Phase 2 beginning October 12, 2020.

What does this mean for court users, court staff, and court proceedings?

Not much will change. Although Phase 2 allows for limited in-person contact, complying with CDC protocols and social distancing mandates will be difficult, given the size of the courthouse facilities. Therefore, court proceedings will continue using remote technology. Staff will continue to work remotely as well. Everyone is strongly encouraged to conduct their court business using remote technology, if possible.

In the event an in-person proceeding is to be held, entry into courtrooms will be prioritized for actual parties, attorneys, witnesses, victims, and essential court staff. Professional media representatives may access a courthouse facility to cover an in person proceeding but access into individual courtrooms may be limited. ([See attached Administrative Order.](#))

Grand jury proceedings and criminal jury selection and trial proceedings remain suspended for a minimum period of thirty days from the onset of Phase 2 operations, and Civil jury selection and jury trials remain suspended until further order.

Are there rules for entry if someone must go into a courthouse facility?

Yes. Daily health screenings, including a required temperature check, are required for anyone seeking entry. Persons who:

Refuse to answer all health screening questions;

Refuse to undergo a temperature check;

Register a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit or greater; or

Answer "yes" to experiencing any of the symptoms in the health screening questions may be denied entry to the courthouse facility. Alternative arrangements will be made for people denied entry due to health reasons.

Everyone, except children under 2, must wear a face covering in all courthouse facilities. If any person does not bring their own face covering, a face covering will be provided at no cost. Face coverings must be worn at all times throughout the public and common areas of the courthouse facilities, including lobbies, hallways, corridors, elevators, stairwells, restrooms, and courtrooms.

Any person who refuses the required temperature check and/or fails to answer the health screening questions or who refuses to wear a face covering may be denied entry into the courthouse and law enforcement may remove the person from the building.

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