

## **COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Clarksville, Texas, 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 Clarksville Municipal Court will implement the following protective measures:

### **General**

1. The Judge 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. The Judge will use all reasonable efforts to conduct proceedings remotely.
3. The presiding judge of the municipal court will maintain regular communication with and keep updated the local health authority and mayor and may adjust this operating plan as necessary with conditions in the city.
4. The Judge will begin setting non-essential in-person proceedings no sooner than June 25, 2020

### **Judge and Court Staff Health**

1. Judges and court staff who can perform the essential functions of their job remotely will telework when possible.
2. The Judge and Court Staff Monitoring Requirements: The Presiding Judge, City Manager, Mayor, and Chief of Police will hold weekly meetings.
3. Judge or court staff who feel feverish or have measured temperatures equal to or greater than 99.6°F, or with new or worsening signs or symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, or having known close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19 will not be permitted to enter the building and should seek medical advice.
4. Judge and court staff will be required to practice social distancing, and practice appropriate hygiene recommendations and current city policies at all times.
5. Protective Measures: Masks and disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer will be provided to staff.

### **Scheduling**

1. The following court schedules are established to reduce occupancy in the court building:

All hearings will occur remotely and any hearings that are in person will always be in established social distancing along with plexiglass providing separation as well in the front lobby, and payment plan room.

### **Vulnerable Populations**

1. Individuals who are over age 65 and individuals with serious underlying health conditions, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune systems are compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy are considered to be vulnerable populations.
2. The judge will include information on orders setting hearings, dockets notices, and in other communications notifying individuals who are in vulnerable populations of the ability to contact the court to identify themselves as a vulnerable individual and receive accommodations
3. Vulnerable populations who are scheduled for court will be accommodated by remote means.

### **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. If there is any concern, the court will have the ability to use a thermal thermometer to check anyone's temperature coming into the court in a safe manner.
2. Each restroom has been evaluated to determine the appropriate capacity to ensure social distancing and no more than one person will be allowed in the restrooms at a time.
3. Public common areas, including breakrooms and snack rooms, have been closed to the public and will not be used by staff to share coffee, food or meetings.

### *Gallery*

4. The maximum capacity of the courtroom will be limited to 10 and will be monitored and enforced by court staff.
5. Seating is limited to every other row.

### *Well*

6. In each courtroom, the counsel tables, witness stand, judge's bench, and clerk, and bailiff seating have been arranged in such a way so that there is social distancing of at least 6 feet between each space.

### **Hygiene**

1. Tissues have been placed near the door of the courtroom, at counsel tables, at the witness stand, on the judges' benches, and in the hallways. Hand Sanitizer will be available upon or allowed to wash hands in restroom.

### **Screening**

1. When individuals attempt to enter the court building, a bailiff 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. Staff who are screening individuals entering the court building will be provided personal protective equipment.
3. If there is any concern, the court will have the ability to use a thermal thermometer to check anyone's temperature coming into the court in a safe manner.

#### Face Coverings

1. All individuals entering the court building will wear face coverings at all times and their time in the court building will be monitored.

#### Cleaning

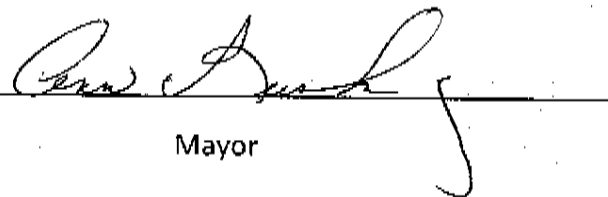
1. Court building cleaning staff will clean the common areas of the court building so that common spaces are cleaned at least every day.
2. Court building cleaning staff have been provided cleaning supplies shown to be effective with this coronavirus.

I, in developing the plan, consulted with the local health authority and mayor, documentation of which is attached to this plan. I will ensure that the judge conduct proceedings consistent with the plan.

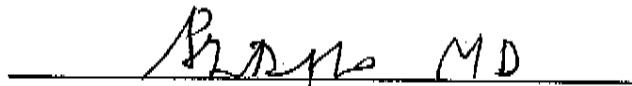
Date: 5/11/2020



Presiding Judge of Municipal Court



Mayor



Local Health Authority