

REINSTITUTION OF THE JURY PROCESS

SEPTEMBER 2020

JURY MANAGEMENT FAQ's

Q: Why is the Court summoning jurors during a pandemic?

A: It is the duty and mission of the Courts to insure that justice is served for all. Jurors are an integral part of the administration of justice and the right to a jury trial is a fundamental constitutional element in our form of government.

Q: What steps are being taken to ensure health and safety standards?

A: Jurors will be spread out to maintain social distancing guidelines. Frequent cleaning and sanitizing protocols are in place. Access to certain common areas will be restricted.

Q: Are masks being provided to jurors?

A: We ask all jurors to bring their own masks, as they are required before you enter the Courthouse. However if a juror arrives without a mask, one will be provided. If a jurors mask malfunctions in any way, a replacement will be provided.

Q: Should I bring my own lunch?

A: If you are chosen to be a juror, pizza will be provided. If you prefer to bring your own lunch please bring something that does not need to be refrigerated or heated.

Q: How many people will I be grouped with?

A: For jury selection, there will be up to 45 jurors, spread out between our two (2) largest courtrooms to maintain social distancing. For trials, the two (2) largest courtrooms will be used and jurors will be at least 6 feet apart from all other persons at all times. Large rooms will be used for jury deliberations.

Q: What if I am unable to serve as a juror?

A: Pennsylvania allows for exemption from jury duty. Valid exemptions include but are not limited to: 1) persons in active military service 2) persons who demonstrate undue hardship or extreme inconvenience. If you have any questions regarding exemption from jury duty, please contact jury management by calling 570-517-3110 or 570-517-3001 or by emailing juryselection@monroepacourts.us. When contacting jury management please include your name as it appears on the summons along with your juror number.

Q: What if I fail (refuse) to appear without explanation?

A: Please contact jury management, rather than fail to appear without explanation.

Q: What if I have symptoms of illness?

A: If you have any symptoms of illness, please DO NOT report. However, you must contact jury management as soon as possible. Pennsylvania allows for exemption from jury duty. Valid exemptions include but are not limited to: 1) persons in active military service 2) persons who demonstrate undue hardship or extreme inconvenience. If you have any questions regarding exemption from jury duty, please contact jury management by calling 570-517-3110 or 570-517-3001 or by emailing juryselection@monroepacourts.us . When contacting jury management please include your name as it appears on the summons along with your juror number.