



Administrative Office of the Courts

COURT ACTIONS ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

New Mexico courts have aggressively implemented precautionary measures because of public health risks from the coronavirus.

Courts have taken the following steps:

- Suspending criminal jury and civil jury trials that have not started. Except for jury trials, all other court proceedings will continue.
- Conducting all court proceedings in a manner to minimize contact among people in the courtroom. When possible, hearings will be conducted by telephone and video to eliminate the need for attorneys and litigants to be physically present in a courtroom.
- Restricting the number of people in any location in a courthouse, including hallways outside of a courtroom, to no more than 25 people to maintain appropriate social distancing as recommended by public health authorities. The 25-person limit includes jurors, attorneys, defendants, the judge, court staff and all other individuals in a courtroom.
- Limiting the number of people summoned to jury duty to no more than 25 people. If additional jurors are needed, courts will keep them in separate rooms.
- Limiting the number of inmates transported from jails to courthouses for hearings.
- Ensuring enhanced cleaning procedures in buildings that house courthouses not owned by the New Mexico Judiciary.
- Suspending out-of-state work travel for judicial employees and judges, requiring a 14-day self-isolation period for judicial employees and judges who have traveled to a COVID-19 high-risk areas, and imposing a self-isolation period for judicial employees and staff who travel out-of-state on personal business starting March 18.
- Require courts to screen visitors to courthouses and deny access to people exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 and people who have traveled to a COVID-19 high-risk area.
- Allowing probate courts to close. District courts have concurrent jurisdiction and can handle cases for probate courts that close.
- Allowing municipal courts to close.