



Superior Court of California County of Napa

Judges

Mark Boessenecker
Cynthia P. Smith
Elia Ortiz
Victoria Wood
Monique Langhorne
Scott R. L. Young
Joseph J. Solga

Commissioner

Jesus Silva Jr.

Court Executive Officer
Robert E. Fleshman

June 21, 2021

Members of the Napa County Bar Association:

It's hard to believe that it's been 16 months since the coronavirus pandemic first began to significantly affect our lives.

Here at the court, we embraced public health and hygiene protocols from the earliest days of the crisis. From mask mandates to social distancing requirements to contact tracing, our small organization mounted a formidable response to the pandemic. As a result, we are pleased to report that we did not experience a single instance of workplace transmission during this crisis.

That's both a testament to our efforts as well as your cooperation and willingness to support our collective approach to the COVID-19 crisis.

From an unprecedented scaling back of court operations in the first surge of cases to the near total transition to remote appearances in nearly all calendars to adjusting our services to the new normal, it's been an incredibly challenging period of transition for the court and our justice partners. Despite these headwinds, our community has emerged from the worst depths of the pandemic stronger than before and facing the future with fresh optimism and an eagerness to get back to business as usual.

And so are we!

Given recent (and oftentimes conflicting) actions by state public health officials to issue revised guidance regarding the pandemic, we are reaching out to you with our plans as the state continues its reopening. Though we are eager to return to a sense of normalcy, for now there will be no changes to courthouse access, the requirement to wear facial coverings inside court facilities, or social distancing parameters.

As weeks progress, we will assess the impact of the recent loosening of public health restrictions. Our first step, which may occur as soon as early July, will likely be to remove all social distancing requirements. This will help expedite pending jury trials. After a further period of review, we will then reassess what other safety measures—such as mask requirements—to see what, if any, can be lifted without compromising the safety of our staff and court users.

Telephone
(707) 299-1100

Historic Courthouse
825 Brown Street
Napa, CA 94559-3031
FAX: (707) 299-1250

Criminal Courthouse
1111 Third Street
Napa, CA 94559-3001
FAX: (707) 253-4673

Juvenile Courthouse
2350 Old Sonoma Road
Napa, CA 94559-3703
(site address only –
no mail delivery)

June 21, 2021

Further revisions to public health guidance may impact our decision-making process. We continue to remain cautious as we ease back into normal operations and will keep you apprised of any major changes as we move forward.

Two points to reference:

1. The court is interested in any feedback or suggestions regarding court operations and services. If you have feedback or suggestions, please contact Court Executive Officer Bob Fleshman at bob.fleshman@napa.courts.ca.gov or (707) 299-1110; and

2. Zoom is here to stay; it's a nice addition to the court system.

Thank you again for your collective efforts in supporting the Napa County Superior Court throughout the pandemic. This has truly been a team effort across the board and our community has benefitted.

Kind regards,



Mark Boessenecker
Presiding Judge



Cynthia P. Smith
Assistant Presiding Judge