



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF MERCED PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT

Court Actions to Mitigate the Spread of Contagious Illnesses and Address Public Concern Regarding COVID-19

It is the responsibility of the Superior Court of California, County of Merced (the Court) to ensure equal access to justice. This document is published to advise of the actions implemented by court administration to ensure the safety of our courthouse and the health of its visitors. While this policy statement relates directly to recent concerns regarding COVID-19, the procedures outlined herein will protect against the spread of most contagious illnesses.

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses known to cause fever, respiratory problems, and sometimes gastrointestinal symptoms. The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is the seventh member of this family to infect humans and is typically spread via airborne droplets of fluid produced by infected individuals.

What is the Court doing to mitigate the spread of all contagious illnesses, including COVID-19?

Court administration will have continuing contact with the Merced County Department of Public Health and will follow the best practice recommendations of those public health officials. All of our courthouses, including all public areas, are cleaned daily. To reduce the spread of illness, janitorial staff has emphasized the disinfecting of all areas within the courthouses.

It is recommended that Court visitors adhere to the following procedures:

1. Frequently, throughout the day, wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
3. Avoid close contact with persons who are sick;
4. If possible, postpone your visit to the Courthouse if you are sick with respiratory symptoms, a fever or a cough;
5. Follow the guidance of your doctor or public health officials.

What if I have received a jury summons to appear in court?

If you are not sick, you should report to the jury assembly room on the date and time indicated in your jury summons. Follow the five (5) recommended procedures described above. You may consider bringing a small container of hand sanitizer with you to the courthouse as an additional precautionary measure.

If you are sick with respiratory symptoms, a fever or a cough, DO NOT report to jury service. Contact the Jury Office at (209) 725-4121 to request that your jury service be deferred to a future date.

How can I keep informed regarding the coronavirus?

The latest information regarding COVID-19 is available on the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov, and the Merced County Department of Public Health website at <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/82/Public-Health>.

The Court will provide additional information as it becomes available.