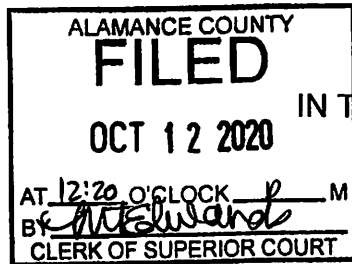


NORTH CAROLINA

ALAMANCE COUNTY



IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Proposed Safe Jury Plan

NOW COME the following officials of Judicial District 15-A who hereby submit this Administrative Order to The Honorable Chief Justice Cheri Beasley pursuant to Emergency Directive 22:

Judicial District 15-A has planned for the safe resumption of jury trials in 2 different locations. Criminal jury trials with in-custody defendants will convene in the Historic Courthouse and Civil jury trials and some criminal trials involving non-custodial defendants will convene in the Paramount Theater in the city of Burlington. Both courtrooms will be configured in a manner that allows for social distancing of all participants at all phases of trial. Jury voir dire will be conducted with panels of no more than 40 persons at a time in order to maintain social distancing. Once selected the jurors will be positioned throughout the courtroom in groups of 4 with appropriate distance between each juror. All jurors will be positioned to be able to adequately see and hear all witnesses, the attorneys and the judge. The parties may select as many as 16 jurors in longer cases in order to provide a cushion should Covid-19 issues arise during trial that would cause the excusal of some jurors. Jury deliberations will occur in the courtroom at the Historic Courthouse to allow for proper distancing and only the jurors will be present in the courtroom. Bailiffs will be stationed at doors outside the courtroom to make certain that no one interferes with the deliberations. The Paramount Theater has a large enough room behind the actual theater to accommodate the entire jury safely. When evidentiary hearings outside of the presence of the jury become necessary during trial this room is large enough to allow the jury to retire there. At the Historic Courthouse our Clerk of Court will designate adequate space for this purpose during trials.

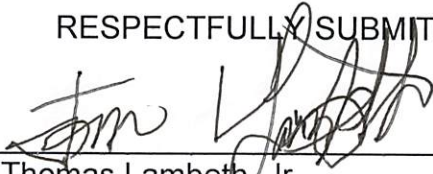
The county is installing cameras and other equipment in the Historic Courtroom to allow the public to be able to watch trials through live streaming in cases where public interest exceeds our limited socially distanced seating capacity. If a trial generates more public interest than our seating allows in the trial courtroom, we will live stream to another secure courtroom with socially distant seating. In the rare event that a case generates more interest than both courtrooms can handle we will broadcast audio only to those members of the public who cannot find a seat in the courtrooms. We are concerned that live streaming video feeds to the public outside of the courtrooms could lead to images being used potentially against witnesses, parties or jurors by way of screen shots of those persons being disseminated on social media in an attempt to intimidate such persons.

Jury Summonses will continue to be mailed to prospective jurors and our Clerk of Court has designated an email address where requested excuses can be sent by jurors in order to allow as much of the process to be handled remotely as possible.

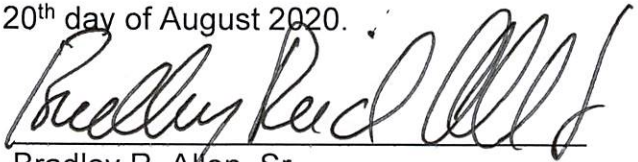
In conjunction with the Alamance Co. Health Department we have already begun daily health screenings of all visitors to our courthouses. These screenings include temperature checks and brief non-intrusive questions regarding possible symptoms or exposure to Covid-19. These screenings would expand to the Paramount Theater during jury trials there. In addition, face coverings are provided to anyone who needs one as they enter the buildings. Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance to all courtrooms and each courtroom is cleaned each weekday at lunchtime and the entire buildings are cleaned and sprayed every weeknight.

Should an issue arise during trial regarding a participant who either exhibits symptoms or otherwise tests positive or has a known exposure to Covid-19, the presiding judge in his or her sound discretion will take appropriate action. This could include many options from excusing jurors to granting continuances to possible declarations of mistrial. Our judges will do their best to complete trials if that can be accomplished safely for all involved.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this the 20th day of August 2020.



D. Thomas Lambeth, Jr.,
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge




Bradley R. Allen, Sr.,
Chief District Court Judge



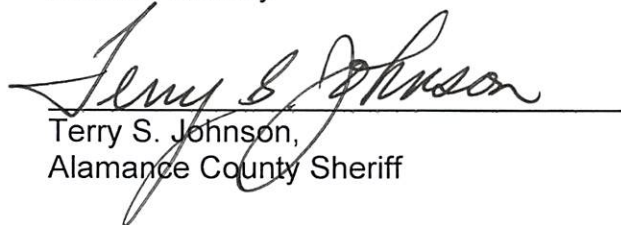
Meredith T. Edwards,
Clerk of Superior Court



H. Sean Boone,
District Attorney



Brad Buchanan,
President of Judicial District 15-A Bar



Terry S. Johnson,
Alamance County Sheriff



Alex Rimmer,
Interim Public Health Director
Alamance County Health Department