

As of June 2, 2020, the following COVID-19 precautions and requirements for hearings will be in force. As conditions change, this list may be updated.

Yakima In-Court Proceedings

Prior to hearing

- Self-assess health daily for COVID-19 related symptoms.
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)
- Prepare digital exhibits (PDF format) and present those exhibits to all parties and to the court no less than 48 hours prior to the hearing.
- Notify the court at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing if you require specific accommodations, particularly if you qualify as a vulnerable or high-risk group. CDC guidelines include the following individuals in the vulnerable group: People 65 years or older and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including those who suffer from chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune disorders, obesity, diabetes, or chronic kidney or liver disease.
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html>)

At the courthouse and in the courtroom:

- Masks must be worn in the courtroom, and in public areas. If you do not have a mask, please stop at the clerk's office on the 2nd floor to obtain a mask. The court will provide disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. At all times, each person should maintain six-foot separation and other social distancing measures.
- The number of attorneys at counsel table will be limited to two. Each attorney should distance from the other by at least six feet. Each person at counsel table will only use the microphone nearest counsel's seat.
- Attorneys will remain at counsel table to address the court. They will not approach or use the podium unless the court gives specific permission to do so.
- If more than one witness will use the witness box during the hearing, a court staff member will wipe the area and microphone with disinfectant. In some cases, the court will require the witness to testify from an alternate location, such as the witness's seat or the jury box.
- Please bring your own water bottles. The court will not be providing pitchers of water or water cups. You may use the drinking fountain in the hallway outside the courtroom for filtered water.
- Each party must provide copies of exhibits for all counsel and the witness. These should be separate documents that are disposable.
- Public galleries in courtrooms will be restricted to only the number of attendees that permit adherence to social distancing requirements. If additional spectators want access to attend the public hearing, they should contact the court at least 48 hours in advance of the hearing to determine alternative methods available for remote viewing.

- While in the courtroom, maintain good hygiene practices: Wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, especially after touching frequently used items or surfaces. Avoid touching your face. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow. Dispose of used items and do not leave any items in the courtroom.

After the hearing:

- If applicable, follow local self-isolation requirements if you traveled to the hearing.
- Notify a member of the court if you determine you had, or may have had, COVID at the time of the hearing so that we may notify potentially affected individuals.
- Maintain a Contact Tracing Log to assist in determining the people with whom you have had contact.
- Because Yakima County is currently in Phase 1 of Washington's phased approach to reopening, gatherings are limited. Additionally, high-risk populations are encouraged to continue to stay home. (<https://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/chart-washingtons-phased-approach>)

Thank you for your cooperation.