

**NOTICE FROM CHIEF JUDGE SARA LISZNYAI REGARDING THE COURT
RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

EFFECTIVE THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

ALL COUNTY COURTS ARE FOLLOWING A FOUR-PHASE APPROACH TO REOPENING AS MANDATED BY THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT.

UNFORTUNATELY, ON THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2021, THE HILLSDALE COUNTY COURTS WERE REQUIRED TO GO BACK TO PHASE I DUE TO THE UPWARD TRAJECTORY OF DOCUMENTED POSITIVE CASES AND POSITIVE TESTS AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL TESTS. EVEN WHEN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC, THE COURTS WILL STILL BE REQUIRED TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL THEY ARE PERMITTED BY THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT TO REOPEN.

PHASE I REQUIRES ALL COURTS TO FOLLOW NUMEROUS SAFETY GUIDELINES INCLUDING HOLDING ALL HEARINGS VIRTUALLY. IN-PERSON COURT PROCEEDINGS ARE LIMITED TO THOSE WHERE THERE IS A STATUTORY OR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT THAT HAS NOT BEEN WAIVED. AT THIS TIME CIRCUIT COURT FELONY SENTENCINGS AND DISTRICT COURT PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE IN PERSON.

IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED FOR A COURT HEARING YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED WHETHER YOU SHOULD CALL IN OR COME TO COURT. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO, PLEASE CALL THE APPROPRIATE COURT.

- FOR CIRCUIT COURT, CALL 517-437-4321

- FOR PROBATE COURT, CALL 517-437-4643

- FOR DISTRICT COURT, CALL 517-437-7329

- FOR FRIEND OF THE COURT, CALL 517-437-4111

ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO ARE ALLOWED TO ATTEND PROCEEDINGS IN PERSON MUST SELF SCREEN BEFORE ENTERING THE COURT BUILDING AND MUST WEAR A MASK TO THE EXTENT THEY CAN MEDICALLY TOLERATE IT. MASKS WILL BE PROVIDED TO THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN.

Screening questions will include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Do you have a fever greater than 100.4 degrees?**
- b. Do you have a cough or worsening cough (excluding chronic cough due to known medical reason)?**
- c. Do you have shortness of breath?**

OR

- d. Do you have at least two of the following symptoms:**
 - Fever**
 - Chills**
 - Repeated shaking with chills**
 - Muscle pain**
 - Headache**
 - Sore throat**
 - New loss of taste or smell**
- e. Have you had any close contact in the last 14 days with someone with a COVID-19 diagnosis?**
- f. Have you traveled internationally in the last 14 days?**

Any individual responding “yes” to the screening questions will not be allowed to enter the courthouse until they can pass the screening questions.

ANYONE WHO IS NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER WILL BE OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT COURT BUSINESS VIRTUALLY, ATTEND COURT PROCEEDINGS VIRTUALLY, FILE DOCUMENTS IN AN ALTERNATIVE MANNER, OR CONFER WITH COURT ADMINISTRATION TO DETERMINE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCESSING THE COURT.

ALL INDIVIDUALS WITH COURT BUSINESS ARE ENCOURAGED TO STILL DO AS MUCH OF IT AS POSSIBLE BY TELEPHONE OR MAIL. PAYMENTS TO DISTRICT COURT MAY STILL BE MADE BY MAIL OR ONLINE AT e.courts.michigan.gov OR BY TELEPHONE, 517-437-7329.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT THE COUNTY WEBSITE AT [HTTPS://CO.HILLSDALE.MI.US](https://co.hillsdale.mi.us). PLEASE CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE COURT OFFICE WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE. IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911.

THE HILLSDALE TRIAL COURTS ARE REGULARLY MEETING WITH LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS TO MONITOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS RELATED TO COVID-19 AND ARE CONTINUOUSLY EVALUATING DATA TO ASSESS THEIR READINESS TO PROCEED TO THE NEXT PHASE OF COURT CAPACITY.