NOTICE TO THE BAR

COVID-19 –HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN MUNICIPAL COURTS

In collaboration with local municipalities, the New Jersey courts are continuing to support public health and safety during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The attached overview summarizes current health precautions in Municipal Court facilities. Consistent with the Supreme Court's June 9, 2020 Order, those measures include the requirements that individuals in courtrooms wear face masks and maintain social distancing (subject to narrow exceptions).

The summary reminds attorneys and others that the majority of Municipal Court events still are being conducted remotely.

Questions about this notice may be directed to Assistant Director for Municipal Court Services Steven Somogyi at (609) 815-2900, extension 54850.

Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: February 23, 2021

New Jersey Courts – Covid-19 Safety Measures and Remote Options – Municipal

Municipal Courts are open only to attorneys, litigants, and members of the public with scheduled events. While the courts are conducting the majority of matters remotely, judges can schedule an in-person proceeding based on the facts and circumstances in any case.

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We are committed to the health and safety of all people who appear in person for Municipal Court matters. Municipalities have taken steps to prevent exposure to the Covid-19 coronavirus in all locations where Municipal Courts are located.

- People are advised of Covid-19 requirements before coming into municipal buildings.
    - Screening may include standard questions and, in some locations, temperature checks.
    - People who are sick or have been exposed to Covid-19 are advised not to come in person for Municipal Court hearings.

- Consistent with the Governor's Executive Order 192, public health precautions are enforced in municipal locations.
    - People generally must maintain six feet of social distancing.
    - Where social distancing is not possible, plexiglass or other barriers may be introduced.
    - Sanitizing stations and disinfectant wipes are available.
    - Occupancy may be limited in many shared areas.
    - Signs may be posted to support social distancing.

- Municipal Court courtrooms have additional safety measures.
    - Occupancy is limited to support social distancing.
    - Plexiglass and other barriers may be installed.
    - Judges only may permit individuals to remove their mask when other precautions (e.g., plexiglass) are in place.

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Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the strong majority of court operations still are being conducted remotely. Anyone may ask to participate remotely instead of coming into the courthouse. Requests should be directed to the judge handling the case.