

In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Supreme Court of Virginia has declared a Judicial Emergency as of March 16, 2020. In accordance with the same, the Newport News General District Court has implemented the following, effective immediately:

1. All civil, traffic and criminal matters scheduled from March 17, 2020 through April 6, 2020 are continued, subject to a defendant's right to a speedy trial, with the exception of emergency matters, including but not limited to, quarantine or isolation matters, arraignments, bail reviews, protective order cases, and civil commitment hearings.
2. Judges may exercise their discretion with regard to proceeding with cases where the defendant is incarcerated.
3. Courtroom attendance is limited to attorneys, parties, and necessary witnesses and members of the press in any matters that cannot be continued.
4. All individuals with legitimate court business who are ill, caring for someone who is ill, or is otherwise in a high-risk category, as defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), are advised to call the local clerk of court or other appropriate court personnel to request an appropriate accommodation.
5. People that fall into the following categories are advised not to enter the building if they have:
 - a. visited China, Iran, South Korea, any European countries, or any other high-risk countries identified by the CDC in the previous 14 days;
 - b. traveled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission;
 - c. been asked to quarantine, isolate, or self-monitor by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
 - d. been diagnosed with, or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19;
 - e. a fever, cough, or shortness of breath; or
 - f. resided with or been in close contact with any person in the above-mentioned categories.
 - g. Individuals attempting to enter the court in violation of these protocols may be denied entrance by a bailiff or court security officer, and may be directed to contact the clerk's office by telephone or other remote means to inform the clerk of their business before the court so as to receive further instruction regarding alternate arrangements for court access.

Cases continued pursuant to the Virginia Supreme Court's order will be continued and a new date will be posted on the court's website. Notices for new court dates will also be mailed, when possible. Updating will occur regularly. Please find new court date(s) and further information here: <https://eapps.courts.state.va.us/gdcourts/caseSearch.do?welcomePage=welcomePage>

The court will have a liberal continuance policy for all remaining cases for those who feel ill. If you have a case or other court business and are in a *high-risk* group, we encourage you to reschedule.

Please contact the Clerk's Office by phone for continuances prior to coming to court.

All cases will be conducted from plaintiff's and defendant's tables instead of at the bench. Everyone who enters the courtroom will be asked to be seated a safe 6-foot distance from others when possible.

This notice will be updated as needed, unless further statewide action is implemented.

Civil Division -- (757) 926-3520

Criminal Division -- (757) 926-8811

Traffic Division -- (757) 926-8725

*Please note that call volumes are high. We thank you in advance for your patience.