



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
US Federal Courts	9/22/2020	The Supreme Court is Closed to tourists until further notice but the building will remain open for official business. The high Court announced it will hear oral arguments remotely in May for a limited number of previously postponed cases. The deadline to file any petition for a writ of certiorari due on or after March 19 is extended to 150 days from the date of the lower court judgment, order denying discretionary review or order denying a timely petition for rehearing. The court said it will generally grant motions for time extensions if parties have difficulties related to the coronavirus. (No new updates)	<a href="#">US Supreme Court Webpage</a>
Alabama	9/22/2020	The Presiding Circuit Judges of each circuit and subject to the provisions of this order, in-person hearings in the circuit courts, district courts, juvenile courts, municipal courts, and probate courts may proceed at the discretion of the presiding circuit judge. Everyone <b>must wear a mask</b> while on Courthouse premises. Continually adding county specific orders and information to the link on the right.	<a href="#">Alabama Bar Update</a>
Arizona	9/22/2020	All Arizona Courts and the office of the presiding disciplinary judge may begin transitioning to in-person proceedings to the extent this can be safely accomplished. <b>Masks are required to enter district Courthouses.</b> Jury trials will commence on a limited basis in Surprise City Court. Presiding Superior Court judges will determine how to conduct in-person proceedings. The Rules requiring attorneys to file electronically through TurboCourt (www.turbocourt.com) remain in effect. Proceedings in all Arizona Appellate, Superior, Justice, Juvenile and Municipal courts and before the presiding disciplinary judge may be held remotely. ** Supreme Court of Arizona issued Order granting presiding judges authority to adjourn, waive, or alter local rules and requirements as needed. Amendment to order July 27, 2020 court operations are limited. Probate section amended to: "The superior court shall give priority to cases in which the appointment of a guardian under title 14, A.R.S., has been requested for an incapacitated person whom a healthcare institution has determined is medically appropriate for discharge from that healthcare institution. For purposes of this paragraph, 'healthcare institution' has the same meaning as prescribed in A.R.S. § 36-401(22)." Attorneys are encouraged to check with their local courts for local practices.	<a href="#">Arizona Order</a>
Arkansas	9/22/2020	Face coverings and physical distance are required in courthouses. The Supreme Court, announced Arkansas courts in all divisions shall resume conducting hearings with certain measures to combat the spread of the disease to the public. In state courts there is no restriction on the type of case for which hearings shall resume. Civil Jury Trials may be in whole or in part by video conference or audio conference; or in-person proceedings, at the discretion of the presiding judge. Non In-Person trials are NOT suspended as Telephones and video hearings implemented/available. See the District list in the link to the right.	<a href="#">Supreme Court Update</a>
California	9/22/2020	Some District (Superior) Courts are opening w/restrictions. Temporary emergency requiring attorneys to electronically serve & receive notices & documents in all general civil, family and probate proceedings if requested to do so by other party. Will stay in effect through 90 days after Governor declares state of emergency lifted. Request court approval to appear by telephone. Superior courts are authorized to adopt any proposed rules or rule amendment intended to address the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic to take effect immediately. Each District & Superior Court directive is listed in the link.	<a href="#">CA Courts</a>
Colorado	9/22/2020	Those entering courthouses are required to wear a face mask. Hearings will be held remotely when possible. Not Suspended are Petitions for Appointment of an Emergency Guardian &/or Special Conservator, Emergency mental health proceedings. Limited Operations- but each jurisdiction is posting updated important information out of concern for the health and protection of court users and staff, the supreme court will now accept case filings of pro se parties by fax and by email until further notice. Each jurisdiction is posting updated directives. Districts listed in link.	<a href="#">State Court COVID page</a>
Connecticut	9/22/2020	Masks are required in the courthouses. An expansive range of civil, criminal, family and juvenile proceedings are now being processed both by remote technology and within our open facilities. Short Calendar 03 (Special Proceedings/PJR) will resume in addition to short calendar 10. Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order Family pretrials and status conferences will be held telephonically. Non-arguable motions marked take papers on civil short calendar10 and all Indical calendars are being ruled on remotely by judges and processed remotely by clerks. Arguable motions on Indical calendars marked ready are being scheduled for a remote hearing on the record. All conferences will be accessed using Microsoft Teams, which you can download to your computer or mobile device from the internet at <a href="https://teams.microsoft.com/downloads">https://teams.microsoft.com/downloads</a> . Probate Courts are available by telephone, eFiling or for assistance through the Probate Court website. All filings, whether emergency or routine, may continue to be mailed or eFiled with the Probate Courts. Most probate courts have altered hours, accessibility to the public, certain filing requirements, and the scheduling of hearings. In these cases, only "urgent" (with no definition provided) matters are having hearings scheduled in the near future. See the Links to the right.	<a href="#">Connecticut State Court Page</a>



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
District of Columbia	9/22/2020	Persons entering Court Buildings must wear a cloth face covering or mask. All deadlines and time limits in statutes, court rules, and standing and other orders issued by the court, including statutes of limitations, are suspended, tolled, and extended during the period of the current emergency. The Probate Division will continue to process documents submitted via eFiling. Emergency matters (21-day and provisional guardianship) will be forwarded to the judge for review and all hearings will be conducted remotely. Judges will also issue rulings for non-emergency matters, if no hearing is required. Attorneys can file documents electronically using Case File Express at <a href="https://dc.casefilexpress.com/Login.aspx">https://dc.casefilexpress.com/Login.aspx</a> . (Probate) All new non-emergency matters (except for the appointment of guardian or conservator) must be mailed to the D.C. Superior Court Probate Division, 515 5th Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20001. Attention: Probate Clerk's Office. Please see the Probate Division's webpage at <a href="https://www.dccourts.gov/services/probate">https://www.dccourts.gov/services/probate</a> matters for specific instructions on how to file a Petition for an emergency matter. You can contact the Probate Division by calling: 202-879-9460 or 202-879-9461, emailing Probate inquiries@dcsc.gov or clicking on Live Chat on the probate page or going to <a href="https://www.dccourts.gov/services/probate-matters">https://www.dccourts.gov/services/probate-matters</a> Please send Guardianship questions to: If you need prepayment of costs to be waived, please complete a Fee Waiver Application located on the DC Courts' website at <a href="https://www.dccourts.gov/services/judge-in-chambers/in-forma-pauperisfee-waiver">https://www.dccourts.gov/services/judge-in-chambers/in-forma-pauperisfee-waiver</a> . Courtrooms are listed in the link.	<a href="#">District of Columbia Courts Homepage</a>
Delaware	9/9/2020	Delaware Judiciary is operating at Phase 2. During Phase 2, all State courthouses will open to the public. All individuals must wear face coverings and maintain 6-feet of social distance from individuals outside of their household. All non-courtroom related public areas shall remain closed. Non-emergency and non-essential telephonic arguments, telephonic hearings or videoconferences not identified above should continue at the discretion of each of the State courts. The courts are encouraged to continue the use of video and audio conferences whenever possible. For all court proceedings during Phase 2, the courts, when practical, shall post on their websites the date and time of the hearing or proceeding, and when requested and permitted, provide reasonable access to media organizations. Civil filings Guardianship Cases: FC_Guardianship@delaware.gov	<a href="#">Delaware Courts Response Page</a>
Florida	9/9/2020	Must wear a face mask and adhere to social distancing. Florida is currently in Phase 2, limited in-person contact is authorized for certain purposes and/or requires use of protective measures the period when local courts must conduct the majority of court proceedings using remote technology. The amendments are designed to make the process more orderly and minimize disruption. In the Supreme Court, use of the eFiling Portal (FL Courts E-filing Authority is <a href="http://www.flclerks.com">http://www.flclerks.com</a> ) The chief judges of each state Circuit Court were ordered to cancel or postpone nonessential court proceedings, unless the proceedings can be conducted remotely. State Wide Emergency Orders in place Links attached for each County directives.	<a href="#">FL Courts COVID-19 Page</a>
Georgia	9/22/2020	The Chief Justice announced he will extend the statewide judicial emergency until Friday, October 10, 2020. All courts are encouraged to continue to use and increase the use of technology to conduct remote judicial proceedings as a preferred alternative to in-person proceedings, both to ensure that essential court functions are continued and to conduct non-essential proceedings to limit the backlog of such matters when the judicial emergency is terminated. Courts have discretion to conduct in-person judicial proceedings, but only in compliance with public health guidance and with the requirements of the United States and Georgia constitutions and applicable statutes and court rules, If you need any documents from the Court's case management system, call us at (404) 656-3470, and we will try to provide those items to you electronically. Please have your case numbers and party names, if available, before you call. Temporarily allowing Remote Notarization and Attestation. <b>Order declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency-Links for each Judicial district is in the link to the right "COVID-19 Court Operating Guidelines"</b>	<a href="#">Georgia Judicial Covid-19</a>



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
Illinois	9/22/2020	Court order is modified so that each circuit may return to hearing court matters, whether in person or remotely according to a schedule adopted for each county by the chief judge in each circuit. Many Counties updated their specific link. Varies for each Circuit; some are operating with precautions, others are urging people to use remote access, some are postponing matters. A mask/face covering is required when entering any courthouse. Please see link to the right for specific Circuit court Plans	<a href="#">Illinois Courts COVID 19 Page</a>
Indiana	9/22/2020	In the state court system, individual trial courts have their own plans to expand court operations. (link on the right) Order Effective until further order the Court finds that the trial courts' efficient and effective operation to hold timely hearings and dispose of cases requires broader authority to conduct court business remotely. Use remote Hearings whenever possible. Individual courts are authorized to restrict, postpone, or telephonically hold hearings. E-filing remains available pursuant to Appellate Rule 68 and documents exempted from efile shall be filed by mail. Parties can file motions for an extension of time if they can't make certain filing deadlines.	<a href="#">Indiana Judiciary COVID19 page</a>
Iowa	9/22/2020	In person court services to resume. Resumption of jury and family law trials. Courts will be hearing Priority cases. 1st priority - Emergency Matters, Criminal Cases. 2nd priority-Civil and guardianship cases. Cases not given priority-Probate other than Guardianships. Use Remote Hearings whenever possible. Face coverings are required for everyone entering court controlled areas and physical distancing. (23 Iowa Counties declared State Disaster (Derecho) Audubon, Benton, Boone, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas, Greene, Grundy, Hardin, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Madison, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Scott, Story, Tama and Washington. Paper filing and e-filing may be difficult at this time. Judges and attorneys are asked to limit their in person business in the Clerk Offices.	<a href="#">Iowa Courts COVID19 page</a>
Kansas	9/22/2020	Face coverings must be worn in public spaces. Order directs that all hearings should be conducted remotely, if possible. It prohibits most in-person proceedings that require more than 10 people in a courtroom, and it requires that all persons in a courtroom be at least 6 feet apart. Authorizes courts to conduct hearings by two-way telephone conference or videoconference communication. The authorization applies to criminal, juvenile offender, civil, probate, child in need of care, and other proceedings. Please see the September 15, 2020 order in the link to the right.	<a href="#">Kansas Courts News Room Announcement</a>
Kentucky	9/22/2020	Face masks are required in courthouses. All hearings in emergency matters will be conducted remotely "absent exceptional circumstances," according to a district order. Each chief district and chief circuit judge must develop a local protocol regarding any additional restrictions or changes in local procedure, consistent with this Order. Proposed local protocols shall be submitted electronically by the chief district or chief circuit judge to localrules@kycourts.net for posting to the Kentucky Court of Justice website. To the extent any local protocols are inconsistent or otherwise conflict with this Order, this Order prevails. Any local protocol that substantially deviates from this Order or other Administrative Orders of this Court may be subject to review and final approval by the Chief Justice under SCR 1.040(3). Civil jury trials may resume after October 1. Judicial Circuits links to the right.	<a href="#">KY Courts COVID19 Page</a>
Maine	9/22/2020	Face covering (your nose & mouth) are required when entering any courthouse. Currently in Phase 4. The Courts WILL schedule and hear: Emergency Guardianships. Video and telephone conferences are the strongly preferred medium for all proceedings. However, the courts MAY schedule and conduct in-person hearings in all case types not listed above, subject to the availability of judicial resources and the need to address priority cases. (please see list in link). Reduced Court Hours. All courthouses remain open to the public although, many proceedings have been postponed or canceled. Order to postpone all in-person court events for family, civil, and criminal dockets, with exceptions. If a party or the party's attorney contends that there are urgent and compelling reasons that the court should hold the party's criminal, civil, or family trial or hearing, the party or counsel shall immediately file a written motion.	<a href="#">Maine Courts COVID page</a>
Maryland	9/22/2020	Currently in Phase 4 of Reopening courts includes phase 1, phase 2 and phase 3. During Phase 4, courts will continue to be closed to public except for those who are necessary to the matters being heard. Family Court: guardianship - non-emergency, Hearings and trials resume; Settlement hearings; Court-ordered mediation. Civil: Non-jury trials. Motions requiring witness testimony; Settlement hearings. Regardless of the phase, the administrative order encourages the courts to continue using technology for remote proceedings, either through video or telephonic purposes, as outlined in the Amended Administrative Order on Remote Proceedings Held During the COVID-19 Emergency. Facial coverings are required when in any Courthouse.	<a href="#">Maryland State Bar COVID-19 Page</a>
Massachusetts	9/22/2020	All trial-specific deadlines in criminal cases scheduled to begin on or before that date are also postponed. <b>Face coverings and physical distance are required.</b> Most court business will still be conducted remotely in civil and criminal cases. Those conducting court business may enter the court, subject to an occupancy limit and social distancing requirements. Guardian ad litem evaluation or investigation interviews/meetings shall be conducted in-person only if the guardian ad litem elects to do so. Interviews/meetings may be conducted by telephone or videoconferencing, at the election of the guardian ad litem. In addition to virtual registries, members of the public can also reach Probate and Family Court Registers' Offices by phone or email. Contact numbers for individual courts and offices can be found online on the Courthouse Locator page. The Probate & Family Court remote services has opened virtual registries where court users can receive face-to-face virtual registry assistance from court staff while remaining in the safety of their own homes. To learn more about the virtual registries and other virtual court servicesThe public can also call the Trial Court Help Line to ask general questions about their cases and help them navigate the court system. The Help Line is staffed from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday	<a href="#">MA Courts COVID Page</a>



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
Michigan	9/22/2020	The State Court has progressed to Phase 3. The Western District of MI, regular in-person hearings resumed. Each judge continues to assess what matters can be postponed or handled remotely. Normal Staffing has resumed and may proceed with jury trials upon approval. Courts are asked to expand the use of remote participation. In Eastern District of MI, Civil jury trials will not take place earlier than november. Civil cases will be held remotely until further notice. Continued use of remote hearings and Limited in-person court activity to essential functions that cannot be conducted remotely. In the state court system, trial courts are limiting courtroom access to no more than 10 people at a time, including staff. <b>The courts are practicing social distancing and limiting court activity to essential functions. Masks are required. Limiting</b>	<a href="#">Michigan Courts COVID19 Page</a>
Minnesota	9/22/2020	Court mandates face coverings to be worn in all court facilities. Courts facilities reopened on a limited basis for additional in-person access - Judges/Court staff shall continue to process cases in all types; judges and court staff shall implement the transitional case strategies approved by the Judicial Council for proceedings pending in the district court (Civil Criminal Juvenile Probate). Some courthouses will require an appointment for access. For Probate cases, remote hearings can be held via multiple types of technology, including but not limited to ITV, video conference via WebEx, Virtual Meeting Room (VMR), Zoom, or telephone. Link to the "Order" breaking down the Transitional Phase is to the right.	<a href="#">MN Courts Emergency Page</a>
Mississippi	9/22/2020	Masks/face coverings must be worn. All Courts are urged to limit in-person, courtroom contact as much as possible by utilizing available technologies, including electronic filing, teleconferencing and videoconferencing. In the Northern District of Mississippi, all proceedings should be conducted remotely where possible. Public access to courthouses is limited to essential business. Other in-court proceedings may go forward at the presiding judge's discretion. <b>Judges and counsel are still encouraged to use videoconferencing and teleconferencing for proceedings.</b> In the state court system, counties with two or fewer reported COVID-19 deaths may send jury summonses. <b>The state Supreme Court urged limiting in-person courthouse contact through the use of electronic filing, teleconferencing and</b>	<a href="#">Courts Main Page (Announcement at Bottom)</a>
Missouri	9/22/2020	The Court enters the following Order and Operational Directives (Phases) applicable to all appellate and circuit courts – including all associate, family, juvenile, treatment, municipal, and probate divisions. The Courts shall remain open but hereby suspends all in-person proceedings in Appellate & circuit courts including all Family and probate divisions. Proceedings that do not require in-person appearances of parties/counsel are not suspended and may continue or be suspended at discretion of the judge. There is a Phase Directive chart/map for each district in the link.	<a href="#">Missouri COVID19 page</a>
Montana	9/22/2020	In the District of Montana, courthouses are open with limited public access. Civil and criminal hearings may proceed remotely or in-person, depending on the judge's preference, as long as social distancing requirements can be met. Montana is in Phase 2 of Reopening process. Continue using Remote/Telephonic hearings when allowed. Courts require use of face covering for people entering Courthouse. Jury trials may be continued. Local Rules by District in Link to the right	<a href="#">Montana Courts Covid Memo</a>



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
New Hampshire	9/22/2020	State of Emergency Declared through Septmeber 28, 2020. The Supreme Court will remain open on a restriced basis. During that time period, all state courts will only allow certain emergency in-court proceedings. Exceptions can be found in the link. E-Filing remains in operation. All courts are accepting electronic signatures by attorneys with a statment of authorization. The Courts are holding only in-person hearings only in essential case types. All others have been suspended per emergency order. All hearings may be in-person hearings, but more likely they have been or will be rescheduled as telephonic hearings to limit the contact of members of the public, courthouse security, court staff and judges.	<a href="#">NH Courts COVID-19 Page</a>
New Jersey	9/22/2020	New Jersey is Operating in Phase 2. For the District of New Jersey, all civil and criminal jury selections and trials are preparing to resume in or around September 2020. Judges can continue to hold proceedings at their discretion and are encouraged to conduct proceedings remotely. The New Jersey Courts resumed some in-person court services. A small number of judges and court staff are working on-site each day. Courthouses and court facilities are open only to attorneys, litigants, and members of th public with scheduled proceedings or appointments. All persons in Judiciary facilities for business must wear masks or face coverings and maintain social distancing. Judges can continue to hold proceedings at their discretion & are encouraged to conduct proceedings remotely. Emergency Applications to New Vicinage Email of AtIEmergent.Mailbox@njcourts.gov. The new temporary option of email filing is designed to support submission of emergent applications that cannot be filed through ecourts or promptly received on paper. It is NOT intended to substitute for existing methods of filing. Court offices also are closed for in-person submissions. Filings may be submitted electronically or by mail. Other proceedings in Supreme Court and Appellate proceed as normal; Motions hearings in Civil and Family will be by phone or video; No new jury trials. Court offices are closed for in-person submissions. Filings may be submitted electronically & w/Electronic signatures on filings are permitted temporarily. Including but not limited to emergent applications submitted by email & hardcopy.	<a href="#">NJ Courts Webpage</a>
New Mexico	9/22/2020	Anyone entering Courthouse facilities is required to wear a mask. Courts Remain Open; Jury trials are resuming subject to approval by the New Mexico Supreme Court of plans by courts for protecting the public health and safety as courthouse operations expand. In the state court system; Judges must conduct civil and criminal proceedings remotely except when an emergency requires an in-person appearance. Permit attorneys to email or fax pleadings. The 4th and 6th District Pilot program allows online payment system for copying fees and other	<a href="#">NM Courts Main News Page</a>
New York	9/22/2020	Entered Phase 3 of a return to in-person operations. Phase 3 includes more virtual courtrooms in Family Court and an increase in nonjudicial staffing levels to accommodate more foot traffic. New York State Court System to Begin Return to In-Person Courthouse Operations, New Case Filings Will Be Accepted. UPSTATE NY-Spanning five Judicial Districts, the return to courthouses will start start phase three of return to In-person operations. Essential Family Court matters will continue to be heard in-person. All Courts in 3rd, 9th and 10th Judicial begins Phase 4 of Return to In-Person Operations - Essential family matters will be conducted in-person and heard by the assigned judge. Non-essential matters will continue to be held virtually and heard by the assigned judge.  Virtual court operations expand beyond the limited category of Essential & Emergency matters. Judges will begin remotely scheduling/conducting conferences & hearings in civil cases. Pending non-essential matters will be heard virtually, with interactions by video & phone. Some District Courts have Virtual Court Operations and Some Districts remain open for Essential Proceedings; All non-essential functions of the courts are postponed until further notice and all essential functions continue. NY will not be accepting any non essential filings, via e-file or otherwise. The court urges counsel to check individual judges' webpages for possible orders, including orders extending time in civil matters and adjourning conferences.	<a href="#">NY Courts COVID19 Page</a>
North Carolina	9/22/2020	Face masks are required in courthouse public spaces. Courts are operating with reduced capacity. By order of the Chief Justice, only people with business at the courthouse will be allowed to enter. Filings are encouraged to be mailed and will be treated as timely if received by mail within 5 days of the due date. No jury trials will be held before October 1. Many hearings can now be conducted online by teleconference. Chief Justice Order-All Superior Court & District Court proceedings must be scheduled or rescheduled, Unless: it will be conducted remotely; When required pleading, motion, petition or supporting affidavit or other document format should be "I (we) affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representation(s) is (are) True. (signed) _____ See order in the provided link. Check your county's Information	<a href="#">NC Courts COVID19 Page</a>
Ohio	9/22/2020	Face coverings are required when in Courthouses. Supreme Court order tolls time requirements for: Appellate Procedure & Civil Procedure; Effective Immediately-The Probate Court are open with restrictions-Contact the probate court (local website) regarding potential changes to court hours and filing requirements to submit necessary documents for emergency guardianships, marriage license applications, adult protective services, civil commitments or mental health cases, and adoptions. The court is using remote technology to conduct hearings where appropriate. Therefore, you may be asked to participate in your proceeding by phone or video. In the Northern District of Ohio, courthouses are closed to the public until further notice.  The Court remains open for Civil Commitments and Emergency Guardianships on a limited basis. For questions regarding Civil Commitments, please call 216-443-8123. For questions involving Emergency Guardianships, please call 216-443-8995.	<a href="#">Ohio Supreme Court Resources</a>
Oklahoma	9/22/2020	Masks are required to enter the courthouse. <b>Starting May 16, all rules, procedures and deadlines will be enforced.</b> In the Northern District of Oklahoma, all civil and criminal matters scheduled for in-court appearances are postponed until further notice, as are their related deadlines. Civil motions that can be resolved without oral argument are unaffected. In the Western District of Oklahoma, civil jury trials are postponed through August. Most civil hearings will be conducted remotely. Subject only to constitutional limitations, assigned judges should reschedule all non-jury trial settings. Emergency matters, and required proceedings of any kind shall be handled on a case by case basis by the assigned judge. Judges shall use remote participation to the extent possible by use of telephone or video conferencing pursuant to Rule Subject only to constitutional limitations, assigned judges should reschedule all non-jury trial settings. Emergency matters, and required proceedings of any kind shall be handled on a case by case basis by the assigned judge. Judges shall use remote participation to the extent possible by use of telephone or video conferencing pursuant to Rule 34 of the Rules for District Courts. The use of email, fax and drop boxes for acceptance of written materials is encouraged, except that the use of email may not be used for appellate filings at this time.	<a href="#">Oklahoma State Courts Update</a>



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
Pennsylvania	9/22/2020	Face masks are required in public areas of the courthouse and in some districts provided. Jury Trials are postponed in Eastern & Western district. The State Supreme Court ordered all county courts to resume various court operations while prioritizing critical matters and encouraging remote proceedings that allow public access. A President Judge is hereby specifically empowered to Limit in-person access & proceedings, suspended statewide rules that restrict, directly or indirectly, the use of advanced communications tech, Suspend statewide rules that impeded local provision for court filings by means other than in-person delivery. In the state court system, jury trials are suspended until further notice. The state Supreme Court ordered all county courts to resume various court operations while prioritizing critical matters and encouraging remote proceedings that allow public access. County by County court operations updates in the link to the right.	<a href="#">Judicial System of Pennsylvania Update</a>
Rhode Island	9/22/2020	Matters that cannot be handled remotely shall be conducted in-person. Calendars will be staggered to ensure compliance. Non-emergency in-person hearings which cannot be conducted remotely may recommence with staggered calendars, social distancing and face mask protocols. In-court Bench trials have resumed and shall continue. All criminal and civil bench trials have resumed with advanced notice by the Presiding Justice. In the state Superior Court system, civil and criminal jury trials are postponed. New order attached in the right column	<a href="#">Rhode Island Order</a>
South Carolina	9/22/2020	All persons visiting county court facilities statewide may wear PPE including protective masks. Beginning September 21, 2020, court operations will resume normal scheduling and docket management, including in-person hearings in Circuit Court and Family Court, as well as General Sessions and Common Pleas jury trials. In-person hearings on all matters should begin September 21, 2020; however, Family Court Judges have discretion to determine whether the matter may be handled using remote communication technology. Family court hearings may be held in person, via Zoom, Teleconference and WebEx. Parties do not need to file additional document copies with the South Carolina Supreme Court or the Court of Appeals. In the Circuit Courts, only emergency hearings shall be held at the discretion of each chief administrative judge. All jury trials are postponed, and all large gatherings are canceled until further notice.	<a href="#">South Carolina Judicial Branch Update</a>
Tennessee	9/22/2020	Facial covering and physical distancing is required. State Court - Courts remain open. Tennessee has allowed the use of electronic signatures to any pleadings and documents. Courts should continue to conduct as much business as possible by means other than in-person court proceedings. Courts are encouraged to continue and even increase the use of telephone, teleconferencing, email, video conferencing or other means that do not involve in-person contact. All of these methods should be the preferred option over in-person court proceedings. The electronic signature contemplate under the Supreme Court Rules cited is typewritten line of "s/name of signatory" so if Ashley was signing it would be "s/Ashley Shudan". Also TN permits statements under penalty of perjury in lieu of affidavits. The Tennessee Supreme Court said it anticipates there will be no further extension of those deadlines.	<a href="#">Tennessee Court Update</a>
Texas	9/22/2020	Face masks are required to be worn in courthouses. The Texas judiciary said state courts may begin holding nonessential in-person hearings as long as they abide by guidelines released by the Texas Office of Court Administration. The local administrative district judges in each county and the presiding judge of each municipal court will be required to submit a reopening plan to the regional presiding judge for their administrative judicial region. Courts are starting to reopen - webpage identifies same. Individual courts may modify or suspend all civil and criminal deadlines until Sept. 30. Please see link to the right for specific district rules.	<a href="#">Texas Judicial Branch Update</a>
Utah	9/22/2020	All courts will remain operating to accept filings, and will also be reachable by phone or email. Judges can postpone trial-related deadlines in civil cases at their discretion. In the state court system, those with symptoms of COVID-19 and those who may have been exposed to the coronavirus are not allowed to enter any courthouse. Lawyers are encouraged to stipulate to extensions of time. In-Person hearings due to exigent circumstances shall be conducted consistent w/all applicable government and Health orders. Utah Supreme Court Chief Justice Matthew Durrant has issued a general order all non-essential hearings are postponed.	<a href="#">Utah Court Update</a>



Stotler Hayes Group, LLC National Survey of State Courts - COVID 19 Impact

State	As of Date	State Court Status	Court Link
Vermont	9/22/2020	Anyone in public spaces of the courthouse must wear a mask. The Courts will schedule and hear Probate hearings concerning emergency guardianship. Hearings for non emergency matters, although generally suspended, may proceed if the parties participate remotely and are not in the courthouse. Such hearings are subject to the discretion of the Superior Judge and the Court Administrator. The Order cites specific exceptions for high-priority cases that must be heard. Jury trials in civil cases are suspended until January 1, 2021. All Judicial Bureau	<a href="#">Vermont Judiciary Update</a>
Virginia	9/22/2020	Face masks must be worn over nose and mouth when entering a courthouse. The Supreme Court of VA extended the Declaration of Judicial Emergency until October 11, 2020. Depending on local circumstances, nonemergency in-person proceedings may begin with social distancing and face masks required in courthouse common areas. Judges will continue to handle proceedings remotely as much as possible. Courts are encouraged to hear matters remotely, although they can hear in-person nonemergency matters and nonjury cases at their discretion if they follow certain guidelines.	<a href="#">Virginia State Bar Update; VA Courts link for Dropbox filings etc.</a>
Washington	9/22/2020	Those entering the court building must wear face masks. Jury Trials are resuming in Washington Courts. Individual judges may decide to proceed with remote conferences as appropriate. After Sept. 8, individual judges may proceed with a "very limited" number of in-person hearings and bench trials on a case-by-case basis, the court ordered. Individual judges may decide to proceed with remote conferences as appropriate. A number of emergency modifications were issued statewide. Court modifications and local court orders that are filed are listed	<a href="#">Washington Court Emergency Page</a>
West Virginia	9/22/2020	Masks are strongly encouraged for those entering the courthouse. In-Person hearings or proceedings may commence on or after May 28, 2020; Jury trials may commence on or after June 29, 2020; Statutes of limitations will expire May 18, 2020; Courthouses will be open to the general public as of July 1. Encourages judicial officers to postpone proceedings that are not time-sensitive, use available technology such as conference calls and video conferencing to minimize person-to-person contact. (No updates)	<a href="#">West Virginia Judiciary Update</a>
Wyoming	9/22/2020	Courts to begin cautious restart of jury trials beginning October 5, 2020; No jury trials should be conducted prior to October 5, 2020. All in-person proceedings in all Circuit, District and Supreme Court should be suspended to October 5, 2020 except- Proceedings related to emergency protection of elderly or vulnerable persons. Civil trials, hearings & Motions should be postponed/rescheduled unless the judge finds it can be held telephonic or video means. Filing fees are not waived.	<a href="#">Wyoming Supreme Court Update</a>