

COVID Bench Trial Considerations

General guidelines

- All persons entering the courtroom will check in with the Clerk of Court prior to entry into the courtroom
- Entry into the courtroom constitutes agreement with this protocol
- Masks are encouraged and will be made available for use by all
- Prior to entry, all persons entering the courtroom will utilize the sanitary station to clean hands
- Participants will sit in assigned seating
- Observers/members of the public will sit in marked places only.
 - Only persons attending with members of their immediate family unit will be allowed to violate the 6-foot rule
- Counsel are encouraged to socially distance from their clients and staff, and to utilize masks when violating social distancing protocols
- Rule 801 provisions requiring counsel to stand and address the court and witnesses from the podium will be suspended
- The courtroom will be cleaned each evening and between the morning and afternoon sessions

Pre-Trial Matters

- The prosecution and the defense / plaintiff and defendant will, not later than ten (10) working days prior to trial, exchange exhibits marked as per the pre-trial / case management conference instructions.
- At the same time, all parties will present the Court with marked copies of exhibits intended to be introduced.
- Demonstrative exhibits need not be exchanged.

Sequestration / Welcome of Observers

- Witnesses will be sequestered, and observers/members of the public will be admitted subject to courtroom protocols outlined herein.

Opening Statements / Closing arguments:

- Delivered from counsel tables

Witness examination

- Witnesses will testify from the witness box
- Counsel will examine witnesses from the counsel tables
- Exhibits will be distributed in accordance with Pre-Trial Matters guidance above, and will be viewed using available multimedia technology

Bench conferences

- All participants will wear a mask during the bench conference

B. Adell 7.29.20
Public Health Official