

Bartonville Municipal Court
Minimum Standard Health Protocols
for All In-Person Court Proceedings and Members of the Public
Attending In-Person Court Proceedings on/after July 8, 2021

Recognizing the need to ensure the health and safety of defendants, attorneys, witnesses, visitors, court staff, judges, and other individuals entering the building housing the court, the Bartonville Municipal Court hereby establishes the following minimum standard health protocols pursuant to the Thirty-Eighth Emergency Order Regarding the Covid-19 State of Disaster issued on May 26, 2021, by the Supreme Court of Texas.

Protocols for Court Staff:

1. Court staff (this includes judges, clerks, bailiffs, marshals and any other person working for the court) who feel feverish or have measured their own temperatures equal to or greater than 100°F, or who have new or worsening signs or symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, or who have had known close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19, will not be permitted to enter the court building and should seek medical advice.
2. The Court will provide hand sanitizer to all court staff who are encouraged to use it frequently. The Court will maintain a sanitation station in the lobby of the court for the public and at the clerk's window for the public.
3. Masks are not required for any court staff, but may be worn by court staff at his/her discretion. Unvaccinated court staff and court staff who are "vulnerable individuals" are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield, but are not required to do so.

Protocols for Defendants, Attorneys and Members of the Public:

1. Masks are not required for any person entering the courtroom, but a mask or face shield may be worn by any person at his/her discretion. Unvaccinated persons and "vulnerable individuals" are encouraged to wear a mask or face shield, but are not required to do so. Any person requested by the bailiff or marshal to remove his/her mask for identification or other security reason shall comply and remove his/her mask until otherwise directed by the bailiff or marshal. Any person requested by the judge to remove his/her mask during a court proceeding to facilitate clear communication shall comply and remove his/her mask until otherwise directed by the judge.
2. Persons entering the courtroom are encouraged to use hand sanitizer prior to entering the courtroom.
3. Prior to entering the courtroom, the bailiff or marshal may ask any individual if she/he is feeling feverish; has a cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing; or has been in close contact with a person who is confirmed to have COVID-19. Individuals who indicate yes to any of these questions will be refused admittance to the court courtroom and building. Further, the bailiff or marshal may take the temperature of any individual prior to he/she being admitted to the courtroom. Anyone with a temperature equal to or greater than 100°F will not be admitted to the courtroom.

4. Any person entering the courtroom who is unvaccinated or who is a "vulnerable individual" may request that the bailiff seat him/her at least 6 feet from other courtroom attendees if possible. The person making the request will not be required to disclose the reason for his/her request.
5. Upon request and good cause shown, any defendant, witness or attorney may request that he/she be allowed to appear in court remotely. Additionally, upon request and good cause shown, any defendant, witness or attorney may request that he/she be allowed to appear at a time when the number of people in the courtroom is limited to ten or less.

Definitions:

"Vulnerable Individual": (a) A person who is over age 65; (b) a person with a serious underlying health condition, such as high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and (c) a person whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy.

"Vaccinated": a person is considered "vaccinated" if it has been 2 weeks (a) since their second dose in a 2-dose series of the Covid-19 vaccine, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines (b) after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

SIGNED ON AUGUST 13, 2021.

Robin Ramsay, Municipal Court Judge

TOWN OF BARTONVILLE, TEXAS

