

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

Administrative Order

2020-PR-015

Re: Restrictions to mitigate COVID-19 spread

FILED

MAR 16 2020

**DOUGLAS T. SHIMA
CLERK OF APPELLATE COURTS**

This order complements Administrative Order 2020-PR-013 on actions to mitigate local or statewide outbreak of the COVID-19 disease.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 disease a pandemic. On March 12, 2020, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly declared a state of emergency warranting extraordinary measures to mitigate COVID-19 spread.

The Kansas judicial branch will continue to provide access to courts in a manner that protects its workforce and the public.

1. Visits to the Kansas Judicial Center, 301 West 10th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612, are restricted to the judicial branch workforce and the public having court business that cannot be conducted remotely online or via mail service with the:

- Kansas Supreme Court
- Kansas Court of Appeals
- Clerk of the Appellate Courts
- Appellate Reporter's Office
- Judicial Council
- Office of Judicial Administration

This restriction also applies to the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program and the Disciplinary Administrator's offices.

There will be no events or tours in the Kansas Judicial Center. The Supreme Court Law Library will not receive visitors.

Persons entering the Kansas Judicial Center or offices of the Disciplinary Administrator or the Kansas Lawyers Assistance Program may be asked screening questions consistent with public health guidelines. Admission may be denied.

The Supreme Court encourages using the judicial branch website at www.kscourts.org and other online tools to complete court business in lieu of visiting these locations.

Chief Judges are advised to develop similar restrictions for each judicial district.

2. A Kansas judicial branch workforce member will be required to self-quarantine and not report to his or her duty station for 14 days if he or she—or someone with whom he or

she lives or is in close contact—has traveled or will travel after March 1, 2020, as follows:

- To any international location.
- To high risk areas in the United States with known widespread community transmission, currently identified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as California, New York, and Washington state or the following counties in Colorado: Eagle, Summit, Pitkin, and Gunnison. Any updates to this list by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be included without revision to this order. For updates, see www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus.
- On a cruise ship.

The self-quarantined workforce member will be required to either work from his or her residence or receive administrative leave, depending on the nature of his or her position.

3. Kansas judicial branch workforce travel for meetings, conferences, trainings, or similar events is discontinued. All in-person trainings provided or organized by the Kansas judicial branch are canceled. Where possible, the judicial branch workforce will use digital options for meetings, trainings, or similar work tasks. Any nonrefundable travel expenses already incurred should be submitted for payment or reimbursement. Workforce members should seek vendor reimbursement before requesting state funding reimbursement. No commitment for future workforce travel is to be made.
4. The Office of Judicial Administration, in consultation with the Kansas Supreme Court, is in contact with state health and emergency preparedness officials and is monitoring ever-changing conditions. As necessary, the Office of Judicial Administration and the Supreme Court will release updates that may impact the workplace or court proceedings. The judicial branch workforce must monitor email for updates and be ready to implement directions immediately.

Dated this 16th day of March 2020.

FOR THE COURT



MARLA LUCKERT
Chief Justice