

## **PUBLIC NOTICE RE COVID-19**

1. The United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan is continuously monitoring information and advice from the Administrative Offices of US Courts, the Center for Disease Control, and local public health officials. The District Court is fully engaged with agency partners, including Probation and Pre-Trial Services, the Bankruptcy Court, General Services Administration, the United States Marshal Service, Federal Public Defender and the United States Attorney's Office. The District Court is considering all options and making decisions based on what we are learning in real time. The District Court will regularly update decisions and related information on this website.
2. Each Judge is making case specific assessments regarding what can be postponed, or handled by phone, video-conference or in other ways short of in person hearings. The goal is to deliver justice without compromising health and safety.
3. Some of the District Court's work –notably most criminal proceedings – typically require in person hearings. The District Court has statutory and constitutional obligations to keep those matters on track to the greatest extent possible. Any party who seeks postponement or other accommodation in such matters should file an appropriate motion in the affected case.
4. The District Court will continue to make liberal use of non-traditional work strategies such as staggering work hours or using telework to reduce the opportunity for virus transmission. In addition, flu season health protocols are being regularly discussed and vigorously enforced with staff. These protocols include social distancing, hand washing and disinfection with sanitizers, as well as regular cleaning of common touch points (doors, handles, keyboards, work surfaces) and requiring sick employees to stay home.
5. The District Court has posted signs at the entrance to all of its facilities advising persons who are sick or symptomatic, or who have recently been with a sick or symptomatic person, or who recently visited a high outbreak geographic area not to enter the facility.
6. The Court has an established Continuing Operation Plan (COOP) that can be implemented to ensure that the core functions of the Court continue if there is a serious deterioration of the local fight to prevent and treat COVID-19 cases.