

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

COVID-19 Protocol

The Supreme Court of Ohio is committed to the continuation of access to justice even during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to do so, while also providing a healthy working environment for staff who are in the building, the Court has implemented increased cleaning and sanitation of common touch points and installed acrylic barriers in areas where staff regularly interact with the public. Additional cleaning supplies also are available to staff to clean office areas as needed.

The following information is intended to provide staff with guidelines for working in and/or returning to the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center.

BEFORE GOING INTO THE BUILDING, ALL SUPREME COURT STAFF AND BUILDING TENANTS SHALL:

1. Complete a self-assessment each day to check for any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, etc.).
2. Immediately report to Human Resources at HumanResources@sc.ohio.gov if they are exposed to COVID-19, experience COVID-19 symptoms, or test positive for COVID-19.¹

WHEN IN THE BUILDING, ALL SUPREME COURT STAFF, BUILDING TENANTS, AND VISITORS SHALL:

1. Wear facial coverings except in instances of certain documented legal, life, health, safety, or security considerations.
 - Individuals who work alone in an assigned work area are not required to wear a face covering while alone. In the event an individual leaves his or her work area, or another individual enters the work area, a facial covering must be worn.
2. Maintain 6-foot distances with signage, tape, or other means to allow for adequate social distancing between employees and visitors.
3. Utilize hand sanitizer and sanitizing products, which are readily available for employees and visitors.

It is recommended that all staff be vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with CDC guidance and in consultation with their medical provider.

¹ An employee need only report this information if they were in the building within the 10 days before COVID-19 exposure, symptom onset, or positive test OR if they are expected to, or will be in the building again, within the next 10 days.

CRITERIA FOR RETURNING TO THE BUILDING AFTER COVID-19 EXPOSURE, SYMPTOMS, OR POSITIVE TEST:

As detailed below, the requirements for returning to the building differ depending upon whether an employee or tenant was only exposed to COVID-19, experienced COVID-19 symptoms, or tested positive for COVID-19. Additionally, a chart summarizing the requirements is included on the last page.

A. Criteria for Supreme Court staff and building tenants who were exposed to COVID-19, but are asymptomatic and have not tested positive:

An employee or tenant is considered “exposed to COVID-19” when he or she has been within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during the person’s infection period (i.e., a 12-day period beginning 2 days before the infected person’s positive COVID-19 test or onset of symptoms, and 10 days thereafter).

1. Recently Vaccinated or Infected Employees – No Need to Quarantine.

An employee or tenant who either (a) is up-to-date on all CDC-recommended vaccine doses, including boosters, or (b) had a viral test-confirmed COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days, can report to the building following COVID-19 exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic and have not tested positive.

2. All Other Employees – 5-Day Stay Away.

An employee or tenant who is not recently vaccinated or infected (see above) and who was exposed to COVID-19 cannot report to the building for 5 days after exposure.

If possible, an employee or tenant who is exposed to COVID-19 should test for infection at 5 days post-exposure.² If the test is positive or if the employee or tenant begins experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should follow the applicable guidelines below.

B. Criteria for Supreme Court staff and building tenants who have not tested positive, but have COVID-19 symptoms:

Employees and tenants who have not tested positive, but are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms *cannot* report to the building until all of the following occur:

- At least 5 days have passed since onset of symptoms;
- Symptoms are improving;
- The employee or tenant is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

² An employee or tenant who had a viral test-confirmed COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days need not test for infection unless symptoms develop.

According to the CDC, COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus, and may include the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

C. Criteria for Supreme Court staff and building tenants who test positive for COVID-19:

1. Employees and tenants who test positive for COVID-19 and who remain asymptomatic **cannot** report to the building until 5 days have passed since the positive test.
2. Employees and tenants who test positive for COVID-19 and who experience COVID-19 symptoms **cannot** report to the building until all of the following occur:
 - At least 5 days have passed since the positive test or onset of symptoms, whichever is later.
 - Symptoms are improving.
 - The employee or tenant is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

If an employee or tenant chooses to re-test for COVID-19 at the end of the 5-day period and the test is positive, the employee or tenant shall remain away from the building for an additional 5 days (for a total of 10 days after the first positive test or onset of symptoms).

CRITERIA FOR RETURNING TO THE BUILDING

