

Oneida Judiciary Devises Plan to Transition Back to In-Person Hearings

(Effective 7/13/2020)

The Oneida Judiciary, in collaboration with Employee Health Nursing and the Oneida Nation's health officials, has devised a plan to gradually transition back to in-person court proceedings and will enforce a new policy to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The plan still allows many hearings to be held remotely and addresses the practice of social distancing, good hand hygiene, and other daily habits to reduce risk of exposure of the virus. Other measures incorporated into the plan include:

- Signs will be placed near the courthouse entry and the security checkpoint to make everyone aware of the new requirements.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the courthouse.
- The participants in all in-person hearings, including judges and court staff, will be required to wear their own face masks or face coverings after they enter the building. If a judge determines that he or she needs to see the face of a witness to better determine their credibility, that witness may testify without a mask once proper social distancing has been arranged.
- All individuals entering the Judiciary will be subject to temperature screenings. If their temperature is higher than 100.4 degrees, they won't be allowed to enter. Individuals who are denied entry will be notified that they may handle their court business remotely or at another time.
- Seating in the lobby and courtrooms will be adjusted to allow for social distancing and the capacity limits have been reduced for safety. Social distancing guides have been placed throughout the facility to indicate where individuals should stand for security screenings and reception service.
- Anyone with a fever, cough, or other common COVID-19 symptoms should not come to the courthouse. If someone has a court hearing scheduled and cannot make it due to illness, they should call (920) 496-7200 to arrange for a telephone or videoconference appearance or request a continuance in writing.

To review the Oneida Judiciary's plan to address in-person reengagement at the Judiciary during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit the Judiciary's website at <https://oneida-nsn.gov/government/judiciary/>.

For more information, contact the Oneida Judiciary at (920) 496-7200 or email to Judicial_System@oneidanation.org