

# COVID Precautions

Sept. 2020

## Courthouse staff is key to protecting jurors from COVID-19

Citizens who are summoned to serve on jury duty in the Milwaukee County Courthouse can be confident that precautions are being taken to protect them from being infected with the COVID-19 virus.

That is the message Milwaukee Circuit Court Judges Glenn Yamahiro and David Feiss want county residents to know when they receive their summons for jury duty.

Live juries were put on hold in mid-March but resumed in two courtrooms that were retrofitted in response to the pandemic in late July.

Several proactive steps are being taken to make the courthouse a safe venue for judges, attorneys, staff, witnesses, litigants, defendants and jurors.

Those steps include sanitization of the courtrooms between hearings; construction of plexiglass dividers between jurors, judges, court officials and witness stands; required face masks; enforced social distancing; health questionnaires and assessments; mandatory quarantines for courthouse staff exposed to confirmed COVID-19 cases; and enhanced sound systems.

"I think the measures that have been put in place are working really well," Judge Yamahiro says. "It feels good, because that's the only way we can get things done. We're doing everything we can."

"People have been patient. They've adapted to new technology. We're starting to get the hang of things. We've come up with some solutions with the technology we have," Judge Feiss says.

Jurors are limited to two per elevator when they are brought up to the courtrooms.

Judge Feiss applauds the diligence and devotion to safety by his staff and other courthouse officials. Some attorneys make a point to sanitize their own stations when they enter the courtrooms, he says.

"I'm 60 years old. I feel safe. My county staff is taking this very seriously," Judge Feiss says.

