

Guidelines for Screening Visitors at the Entrance to a Courthouse

The following suggestions come from public health experts at the Georgia Department of Public Health. Courts may use these guidelines at their discretion. Keep in mind that screening is an action taken after the following actions have already been implemented: (1) eliminate all non-critical functions, (2) impose social distancing among employees and visitors, and (3) urge anyone not feeling well to self-isolate at home.

- Conduct the screening outside or in a designated area;
- Ask whether the visitor is experiencing fever, any shortness of breath, persistent cough or sore throat, or any other symptoms of respiratory infection, or has experienced such symptoms and is currently subject to Georgia Department of Public Health's Isolation Protocol (or post a notice listing those symptoms in a prominent location);
- Ask whether the visitor has traveled to an area or location with widespread, ongoing transmission of Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the last 14 days, per CDC guidelines, or has been exposed to COVID-19 within the last 14 days;
- Take each person's temperature using a no-touch thermometer;
 - The persons taking visitors' temperatures should wear gloves, a surgical mask, and a plastic face shield;
- Prohibit entrance by anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher;
 - Note that, as the weather grows increasingly warm, screening will produce increased false results unless individuals are allowed to cool down first;

- Prohibit any person meeting either the respiratory infection symptoms, travel or exposure criteria, or the temperature criteria from entering the building;
- Provide hand sanitizer and/or face masks for those entering the building.

Persons prohibited from entering the building should be given a telephone number or other means to contact court officials regarding alternative means of pursuing critical judicial matters.

March 27, 2020