

Griffin Municipal Court

COVID 19 Operating Guidelines

When Appearing in Court: We require that you follow the guidelines below for a safe, effective and efficient experience.

- Anyone entering the courtroom will be required to wear a mask.
- Temperature will be taken upon entering the courtroom, anyone with a temperature of 99.5 or higher will not be allowed to enter.
- Everyone must maintain social distancing guidelines while waiting to enter the courtroom and when interacting with court staff.
- Only the Defendant will be permitted to enter the courtroom - no Family members or friends. If someone needs to be present at the time your case is called by the Judge, he/she will be asked to wait outside until your case is called, at which time he/she will be allowed into the courtroom while your case is being heard.
- No children allowed in the courtroom.
- Anyone entering the courtroom will be required to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting the courtroom.
- Please be patient with wait times- Court times are staggered in an effort to continue social distancing; therefore only **20 defendants will be allowed** in the courtroom at one time. Court security will not allow you to enter the courtroom until your scheduled time. **If you miss your court time, you will be sent to the clerk's office to receive a new court date.**
- There is a strong possibility you will be waiting outside, so please come prepared with sunscreen, umbrella etc.
- Courtroom as well as bathrooms WILL be cleaned and sanitized in between court sessions.
- Hand Sanitizer and disinfectant wipes are available throughout the courtroom.
- Limit of 2 persons at a time in the restroom in order to facilitate social distancing guidelines.
- Use of water fountains is prohibited.

Not all cases require a court appearance, most can be paid in lieu of appearing. If you would prefer to not appear in court and your case is not a mandatory appearance you may pay beforehand. Our payment options are:

- Online- www.griffinpay.com
- By phone- 1-855-328-7770
- Mail- in money order to P.O. Box T Griffin, GA 30224
- In person at the Clerk's Office (100 S. Hill Street, Street Level, Griffin, GA)

If you are sick, please do not come to court. Please call our office for a (1) time courtesy reset of your case.

If you are over 60 years of age, have a chronic medical condition or compromised immune system (with valid medical documentation) and are not yet comfortable with coming to court, please call our office for a (1) time courtesy reset of your case.

Isolation/Quarantine guidelines regarding court personnel.

In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the State of Georgia, Department of Public Health's Seventh Amended Administrative Order for Public Health Control measures.

Isolation

1. Persons with Known COVID-19. Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or clinical laboratory of a positive laboratory-confirmed test for COVID-19, the person testing positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

2. Persons with Suspected COVID-19. Upon notification by a healthcare provider or public health official that COVID-19 infection is diagnosed or suspected based on symptoms, the person with suspected COVID-19 infection shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department. As of the date of this Order, the CDC recognizes the following symptoms of COVID-19 infection: fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), 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, or diarrhea.

3. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Isolation Protocol attached to this Order, which may be updated from time to time based on CDC guidance.

4. Each isolated person shall remain in isolation until such time as he or she no longer presents a risk of infection to the public, as determined by the Isolation Protocol then in effect. As of the date of this Administrative Order, the Isolation Protocol requires an isolated person to remain in isolation until either:

- the person's fever has been gone for at least seventy-two (72) hours, without taking fever-reducing medication, and
- the person's other symptoms have shown progressive improvement, and
- at least ten (10) days have elapsed from the date symptoms began, or
- for a person who was placed under home isolation due to a laboratory-confirmed positive test result, But who have no symptoms of COVID-19, until at least ten (10) days have elapsed since the person's First positive diagnostic test.

5. Isolated persons should monitor their symptoms and seek prompt medical attention if worsening symptoms develop, as instructed in the Isolation Protocol. An exception to the requirement for isolation applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person's health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.

6. Each isolated person shall cooperate with state and local public health personnel by answering questions as necessary to identify and locate those persons with whom the isolated person has been in close contact (within six (6) feet for fifteen (15) minutes or more) beginning two (2) days before symptoms began or, for isolated persons who have experienced no symptoms of COVID-19, beginning two (2) days before the test sample was obtained. If requested by public health personnel, the isolated person shall provide a list of the locations visited by the isolated person during the time frame that he or she may have been able to transmit the disease.

Quarantine

7. Persons with COVID-19 Exposure Likely to Result in Infection. Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or isolated person of exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact (within six (6) feet for fifteen (15) minutes or more) with a person who must be isolated as provided herein, the person so exposed shall immediately quarantine himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.

8. Each quarantined person shall remain at home or in the approved quarantine location for a period of fourteen (14) days from the person's last known exposure to COVID-19. An exception to the requirement for quarantine applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person requires treatment in a healthcare facility.

9. During the period of quarantine, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell, the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation set forth above.

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