

SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Members of the Vermont Bar

FROM: Patricia Gabel, Esq., State Court Administrator

RE: Judiciary Response to Increased COVID-19 Cases Across Vermont

DATE: November 25, 2020

As Vermont experiences an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases, I want to assure the Bar that the Judiciary is committed to maintaining the safety of its employees, the bar, and the public.

During these unprecedented times, the Judiciary is continuing its work on behalf of Vermonters while following all Department of Health guidelines to prevent or quell increased cases in our courtrooms and communities. When there are cases that impact those who interact with the Judiciary, the courts follow reporting guidelines, including notifying staff, all other agencies that occupy the building, and any attorneys or litigants who have attended hearings. Staff then cooperate fully with contact tracing conducted by the Department of Health. The Judiciary has existing health and safety protocols, including a mask requirement, social-distancing rules, plexiglass barriers, daily health surveys of all who enter court facilities, and careful disinfecting of surfaces.

To provide increased safety, we have also allowed certain matters before our courts to proceed virtually and delayed certain types of trials that would require many individuals gathering in person. All decisions are made based on guidance from Department of Health and CDC protocols.

Further information regarding the steps the Judiciary is taking to promote safe operations during the pandemic is available on the COVID-19 page of the Judiciary's website at www.vermontjudiciary.org/COVID19.