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CIVIL DIVISION CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH JURY TRIALS WITH MEASURES FOR USE OF LARGER COURTROOMS FOR JURY SELECTION AND SPREADING JURORS AROUND THE COURTROOMS

Effective immediately, as the Civil Division continues to safely and carefully move Civil cases to trial while responding to concerns about the increase in COVID cases in Los Angeles County, attorneys are advised that judges may:

- (1) Conduct jury selection in larger courtrooms, when available; and
- (2) Allow jurors to sit throughout the courtroom rather than only in the jury box.

"As the Court continues to closely monitor COVID cases in Los Angeles County related to the Delta variant, we are doing everything possible to provide safe access to justice while striving to maintain and guarantee fair access to justice for all," Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor said. "One way to accomplish this balance is to provide flexibility to our judges to conduct jury selection in larger courtrooms, if available. When the jury is selected, judges may consider seating jurors throughout their courtroom to allow them to sit a comfortable distance from one another, whenever possible. Judges will discuss juror seating with counsel prior to trial."

These decisions will be made at the discretion of each trial judge. Departments 1 and 96

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CIVIL DIVISION MEASURES

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in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, located at 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, for example, may be used for jury selection when available. After jury selection is completed in Departments 1 and 96, if used, the case will return to its assigned courtroom for trial. Nothing herein changes the trial judge assigned; only the courtroom space.

Judges will discuss logistics with attorneys prior to the start of trial.

Following Los Angeles County and State health directives, there is no longer a requirement for social distancing in Los Angeles County courthouses.

However, in accordance with [General Order No. 2021-GEN-023-00](#), all persons are to wear a face mask over their nose and mouth while in a courthouse. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings are urged to seek an accommodation under [Rule 1.100](#) of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment.

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