

Effective Monday, June 22nd, Lycoming County government's policy on face masks will change. Beginning on Monday, courthouse visitors will be encouraged, rather than required, to wear a mask in all County buildings; however, generally, face masks will continue to be REQUIRED in the following court areas:

- Courtroom #3;
- Courtroom #4; and
- Domestic Relations Office.

Additionally, face masks may be required in some magisterial district courts.

Even though effective June 22nd, the general rule is that masks are optional for visitors and employees (with the exception of the courtrooms/offices listed above), other Common Pleas Judges, Magisterial District Judges, Family Court Hearing Officers, and Court offices may require face masks in certain situations.

If you have a question about the mask requirement in a particular courtroom or court office, please contact that office directly. Additionally, for more information about the policies in courtrooms 3 and 4, please see the messages below from Judge Tira and Judge Lovecchio:

I appreciate everyone's cooperativeness in adjusting to the modifications that have had to be made due to Covid-19. With time, I anticipate they will change and eventually things will return to something very close to what they were before Covid-19 occurred. At this time, the following procedures remain in place in courtroom 3: all entrants are to sanitize their hands prior to entering, maintain social distancing and wear masks. The only exception to the mask requirement will be witnesses when they testify at the witness stand behind the Plexiglas or with court authorization. Staff may also remove their masks as they wish when sitting behind the Plexiglas barrier. Court staff will sanitize the witness stand between witnesses. Parties are requested to instruct their witnesses to utilize one seating area throughout their time in the courtroom. Also, parties should limit the number of spectators in the courtroom to allow for social distancing. This can be accomplished through having witnesses remain outside the courthouse until needed and by having the witnesses leave when done testifying. Thank you again for your assistance in helping the Court run smoothly during these unusual times.

Sincerely,
Ryan M. Tira, Judge
Court of Common Pleas 29th Judicial District
(570) 327-2370

It is the responsibility of the Court to dispose of the cases that come before it in a prompt and fair manner. The pandemic has delayed the disposition of many cases. As the court is getting back to normal and while Pennsylvania is fortunate enough to be one of only three states where the virus seems to be waning, it is critical to maintain precautionary measures. The court must protect its staff as well as the participants and

the viewing public. Until otherwise indicated, the procedures in courtroom 4 will require all entrants to first sanitize their hands, to maintain social distancing, to wipe down their physical locations upon exiting, and to wear masks. The only exception to the mask requirement will be witnesses when they testify at the witness stand behind the Plexiglas and the attorneys at counsel table with court authorization. Staff may also remove their masks as they wish if sitting behind the Plexiglas barrier. Thank you very much and please stay safe and well.

Sincerely,
Marc F. Lovecchio, Judge
Court of Common Pleas 29th Judicial District
(570) 327-2336

Adrienne J. Stahl
District Court Administrator