



Circuit Court for Columbia County
230 Strand Street
St. Helens, OR 97051
(503) 397-2327

Information for Jurors During COVID-19 Pandemic

Potential jurors may request to be deferred if they are in one of the categories identified by the Centers for Disease Control as being at high-risk for serious illness due to COVID-19. These include:

1. People who are over 65 years old;
2. People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes;
3. People with weakened immune systems;

Why are jurors needed at this time?

The courts are considered essential under Governor Brown's "Stay Home, Save Lives" Order. Under that order, we are continuing to hold only the most essential proceedings. Jury trials are among the most important work of the court. Simply put, trials can't occur without jurors and the constitutional right to a jury trial doesn't end during a pandemic. You play a critical role in ensuring that the court can continue its obligation under the law to allow individuals to exercise their constitutional right to a trial. We know things have changed dramatically under the COVID-19 virus and those changes may affect your ability to serve. If you have not already been deferred or excused, you are not ill, you do not have high risk conditions, and you would possibly be able to serve on a trial jury, please appear as directed in your summons.

What is the court doing to keep jurors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic?

The court has taken extra measures to protect the safety of people coming to the courthouse. We have increased cleaning in courtrooms and other areas of the court and are maintaining social distancing by restricting seating spaces and changing our format for trials. The court encourages anyone coming to the courthouse to wear a protective face covering while moving about the courthouse and will have face coverings available for jurors who do not have their own. There are hand sanitizer stations located throughout the courthouse, but you may bring your own sanitizing product if you wish.

How are juries selected?

A master list of potential jurors is created every year for each county. The master list is drawn from DMV records and lists of registered voters. Names are drawn randomly from the list throughout the year and summoned to the court.