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FHMS CHART FOR DEADLINES AND PROCEEDINGS IN THE PA COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

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Due to the unexpected and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania declared a judicial emergency for all Commonwealth County Courts through at least June 1, 2020. The courts of common pleas were permitted to issue orders providing additional extensions and instructions for court proceedings. The information below summarizes the orders governing the court of common pleas in each county. We continue to monitor developments regarding COVID-19's impact on court operations and will periodically update this chart on our website. For the most up-to-date information and more details, please click on the county to be taken directly to that court's website.

Court	Jury Trial Status	Judicial Emergency End Date	Arbitrations and Other Guidance
Adams County	The Civil Trial Term scheduled for March 1, 2021 shall remain as scheduled	April 30, 2021	<p>Only immediate parties, witnesses, and staff shall be admitted to a courtroom for court proceedings unless otherwise directed by the presiding Judge.</p> <p>Any person wishing to observe a court proceeding must contact the Court Administration's Office one (1) business day prior to the proceeding.</p> <p>Arbitration Hearings for the months of December 2020 and January 2021 are canceled and continued.</p>

Court	Jury Trial Status	Judicial Emergency End Date	Arbitrations and Other Guidance
Allegheny County	Postponed to a date certain after January 29, 2021	March 31, 2021	<p>Sidebar conferences are prohibited until further order of court.</p> <p>All matters shall be conducted remotely via ACT. Proceedings that cannot be conducted using ACT shall be postponed to a date certain after January 29, 2021.</p> <p>In-person arbitration hearings have been continued; remote hearings are proceeding upon request.</p>
Armstrong County	Suspended through March 2021	March 31, 2021	<p>All time calculations for the purposes of time computation relevant to court cases or other judicial business, including statutes of limitations, Rule 600 in criminal matters, and general time deadlines, are suspended subject to constitutional limitations.</p> <p>All civil court matters currently scheduled through March 31, 2021 may be continued and/or conducted remotely.</p> <p>Motions heard by the designated designated Motions Judge shall be restricted to request for injunctive relief relating to public health concerns or any other emergency motion.</p>
Beaver County	No specific guidance regarding civil trials	September 11, 2020	<p>Guidelines established by the CDC and DOH shall be observed while in the building.</p> <p>Conferences and arguments may be conducted by video or phone.</p> <p>All cases in on the October / November trial term shall be continued to the trial term beginning January 11, 2021.</p>
Bedford County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	<p>All courtrooms shall limit gallery capacity to a maximum of 50% and operate in such a manner to allow for social distancing.</p> <p>If proceedings can be held with only counsel present, physical presence of the parties shall not be required.</p>
Berks County	Jurors whose Service Date is January 7, 2021 should not report for Jury Duty.	June 30, 2020	<p>All non-essential activities suspended until further notice.</p> <p>Any hearing may be scheduled using alternative electronic means and should be utilized when possible.</p> <p>When deemed appropriate and necessary, hearings requiring personal appearances may be scheduled at the discretion of the assigned Judge.</p> <p>Arbitration Hearings resumed via ACT on June 17, 2020.</p>

Court	Jury Trial Status	Judicial Emergency End Date	Arbitrations and Other Guidance
Blair County	Canceled through the remainder of 2020; no new dates have been scheduled	April 30, 2021	<p>If parties, attorneys or witnesses are in congregate settings, social distancing shall be observed.</p> <p>All persons entering county buildings for court business will wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times.</p>
Bradford County	Proceeding at the discretion of the presiding judge	January 31, 2021	Public access to the Courthouse shall be limited to allow for social distancing and capacities recommended by the CDC. All court users are required to wear a mask
Bucks County	Suspended through March 31, 2021	March 31, 2021	<p>All visitors are required to wear a protective face covering, maintain social distancing, and comply with any other Court safety directives.</p> <p>Compulsory Arbitration proceedings are suspended through March 31, 2021.</p>
Butler County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	All persons entering the courthouse should have a mask and be prepared to wear it if requested.
Cambria County	Proceeding at the discretion of the presiding judge	June 1, 2020	<p>All persons will be temperature checked at the entrance. All members of the public are required to wear face masks or other facial covering over the nose and mouth.</p> <p>Social distancing and other mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC and the DOH shall be observed.</p>
Cameron / Elk Counties	Suspended through February 8, 2021 and expected to resume as soon as possible to the extent that jury selection may be conducted in a safe manner	February 27, 2021	<p>No in-person judicial proceedings shall occur through January 15, 2021.</p> <p>The court has limited resources to accommodate scheduling and conducting judicial proceedings via ACT, so certain essential proceedings shall take precedence.</p>
Carbon County	Proceeding on a limited basis	December 31, 2020	<p>All persons will be required to wear masks during in-person proceedings and social distancing will be enforced.</p> <p>Excluding proceedings involving a right to public and press access, no non-essential visitors, including children, shall be permitted to be present at such proceedings.</p>

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Centre County	Suspended until further notice	April 30, 2021	<p>Individuals permitted access shall maintain social distancing, wear protective face masks and comply with all safety guidelines issued by the Court and Staff.</p> <p>Only necessary and authorized individuals will be allowed entry to any court facility.</p> <p>Hearings requiring personal appearances will be scheduled at the discretion of the presiding judge.</p>
Chester County	Jury trials are scheduled to resume February 16, 2021	June 1, 2020	<p>All coronavirus related safety precautions and protocols shall remain in effect. This includes social distancing, the wearing of masks while in the Justice Center and the courts, staggered court proceedings and use of ACT when appropriate.</p> <p>Attendance at hearings is encouraged to be limited to essential participants.</p>
Clarion County	Canceled and to be rescheduled after December 31, 2020	December 31, 2020	Jury trials to be rescheduled after December 31, 2020.
Clearfield County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	
Clinton County	Jury Selection is scheduled for January 15, 2021	March 7, 2021	
Columbia / Montour Counties	Suspended until April 30, 2021.	June 30, 2021	Social distancing, use of masks, sanitizing procedures, and other directives and suggestions of the CDC and the DOH shall continue.
Crawford County	January 2021 Criminal Term and February 2021 Civil Term are canceled	None – judicial emergency extended indefinitely	All occupants of the Judicial Center, shall maintain social distancing; wear a mask, unless excused by the Court; and answer questioning as necessary to determine COVID-19 symptoms, contact with persons known to have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or, within the previous 14 days, presence at a location deemed by the CDC to be a hotspot of COVID-19 contagion.

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Cumberland County	<p>The call of the Civil Trial List scheduled for January 19, 2021 is cancelled.</p> <p>Civil Pretrials scheduled for February 3, 2021 are cancelled.</p> <p>Civil Jury Trials scheduled for the week of February 15, 2021 are rescheduled to the week of May 24, 2021.</p>	March 31, 2021	<p>Witnesses, other than parties, in civil cases shall testify electronically, including by phone or video.</p> <p>Proceedings with too many participants shall be continued to a date after the expiration of the Judicial Emergency.</p> <p>All shall observe social distancing and wear appropriate face covering unless given permission (or requested) by the judge or hearing officer to remove it.</p> <p>E-signatures of judges, attorneys, and litigants accepted until further notice.</p> <p>Common Pleas judges, magisterial district judges, and hearing officers shall have broad discretion to schedule, continue, and conduct hearings, trials, and other proceedings.</p>
Dauphin County	Scheduled to resume March 8, 2021	August 31, 2020	
Delaware County	Suspended until further notice	January 31, 2021	<p>No one other than the parties and counsel shall be permitted in the courtroom or in the courthouse-government center generally, absent a specifically reasoned basis to the contrary.</p> <p>The following will continue to be scheduled: arguments, pretrial evidentiary hearings and non-jury trials. They may be conducted remotely, in person, or through a combination.</p> <p>Arbitration Hearings resumed July 13, 2020.</p>
Erie County	Postponed to a date certain after January 4, 2021	January 4, 2021	<p>Any individuals having business in the Court shall comply with the guidelines set forth in the DOH Order requiring universal face coverings dated November 17, 2020.</p> <p>No in-person hearings shall occur in any division of the Court of Common Pleas except certain exempt and emergency proceedings. All proceedings that can be conducted remotely via ACT shall proceed as scheduled.</p> <p>If a non-exempt proceeding cannot be conducted via ACT, it shall be postponed to a date certain after January 4, 2021.</p> <p>Arbitrations are proceeding remotely as scheduled.</p>

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Fayette County	Proceeding as scheduled	January 4, 2021	Anyone entering the court facilities shall wear a mask for the duration and comply with safety measures consistent with the current federal and state executive guidance associated with countering the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Attorneys are encouraged to attend in-person hearings with only their client and any necessary witnesses.
Forrest / Warren Counties	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	
Franklin / Fulton Counties	Scheduled to resume in Franklin County on March 8, 2021 Scheduled to resume in Fulton County on April 26, 2021	April 30, 2021	All trial-specific deadlines in all civil and criminal cases remain in effect unless modified by further Order of Court or of the assigned judge.
Greene County	Suspended until January 31, 2021	June 1, 2020	All "in-person access and proceedings" shall be subject to the recommended, but discretionary, safety consideration of wearing a facial mask, and the reasonable constraint of maintaining a social distance of at least 6 feet between individuals.
Huntingdon County	Suspended until March 31, 2021	March 31, 2021	Litigants involved in civil matters are required to participate in all proceedings via Zoom.
Indiana County	Jury selection on or before February 22, 2021 is cancelled	Extended until further notice.	Proceedings in the Court of Common Pleas shall be conducted by ACT. In-person hearings shall be held at the discretion of the Presiding Judge. Attendance shall be limited to counsel, parties, and witnesses.
Jefferson County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	
Juniata / Perry Counties	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	All CDC guidelines will be followed; social distancing guidelines will be followed; mask and/or face coverings will be required.
Lackawanna County	Suspended through February 28, 2021	February 28, 2021	Civil and Discovery Motions which would normally be presented in Motion Court are to be submitted electronically to civilmotion@lackawannacounty.org (civil motions) or to discoverymotion@lackawannacounty.org (discovery motions). The motions must be in PDF format and shall state if the motion is stipulated to, consented, or opposed.
Lancaster County	Continued through January 31, 2021	February 28, 2021	Courthouse is closed to the public from January 11, 2021 to February 12, 2021 except for certain emergency proceedings. Time limitations for the initiation of any action or filing of any pleading or document are extended until February 15, 2021. Any filing shall be considered timely filed if filed on or before the close of business on February 15, 2021.

Court	Jury Trial Status	Judicial Emergency End Date	Arbitrations and Other Guidance
Lawrence County	Scheduled to commence February 8, 2021.	February 8, 2021	No jury trials during the January 2021 Trial Term. Cases scheduled for a date certain jury trial during that term are continued to the term commencing February 8, 2021.
Lebanon County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 30, 2020	All persons must wear a face mask or other covering while on the third floor of the Municipal Building or in the Domestic Relations Office. All members of the public must abide by the CDC recommendations for social distancing.
Lehigh County	Suspended through February 28, 2021	February 28, 2021	In-person proceedings shall be limited to no more than 25 persons in the Common Pleas and 10 persons in the Magisterial District Courts. To the extent possible, all employees and visitors shall follow CDC and PA DOH guidelines, including wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. Arbitrations are proceeding via ACT when possible.
Luzerne County	Postponed through January 31, 2021	November 30, 2020	All individuals entering any Court facility shall wear a face covering. No one other than the litigants, counsel and witnesses will be permitted to attend a hearing. Admission to court rooms will be based upon physical/social distancing requirements as provided by the CDC guidelines and/or directives of the Luzerne County Sheriff. Pending further Order, only those proceedings which directly impact the health, safety, security, welfare, or incarceration of an individual shall be held as normally scheduled. All in-person proceedings shall be postponed to a later date.
Lycoming County	Proceeding as scheduled	January 31, 2021	Generally, only necessary participants will be allowed entry to courtrooms and hearing rooms. Until further notice, all persons entering Court facilities will wear facemasks and practice social distancing.
McKean County	Suspended until at least January 1, 2021	June 1, 2020	After January 1, 2021, the court will use ACT as well as small in-person panels for jury selection. No in-person proceedings shall be held until at least January 1, 2021. Proceedings shall be held via ACT. If an in-person proceeding is required, it shall be continued until after January 1, 2021.

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Mercer County	Proceeding as scheduled	December 31, 2020	<p>All persons present, including parties, attorneys, court staff, sheriff deputies, and others shall wear masks, practice social distancing, use hand sanitizer, and take all other precautions.</p> <p>All Common Pleas Judges shall have the authority to limit the number of persons present at any one time in their courtrooms subject to any constitutional rights.</p>
Mifflin County	Jury selection for January 4, 2021 has been canceled.	March 31, 2021	
Monroe County	Suspended until further Order	June 30, 2021	<p>Litigants will only be permitted in the facility 10 minutes or less prior to a scheduled proceeding. Counsel shall speak with their clients outside prior to the proceeding. Witnesses will be called in as needed.</p> <p>ACT will be used when possible and practicable. In person appearances will continue to be limited to the matters currently being heard pursuant to the emergency orders or as ordered by the Presiding Judge.</p> <p>Arbitrations are proceeding via ACT where possible.</p>
Montgomery County	Suspended until further notice	None – emergency extended until further notice	<p>Local Civil Rule 4012 (Depositions, Place of Taking) remains suspended until further Order of Court.</p> <p>Individuals permitted access to any court facility will be required to maintain social distancing, wear protective face masks and comply with all safety directives provided by the Court or County staff.</p> <p>Any civil cases commenced on or after January 1, 2019 are temporarily exempted from Local Rule of Civil Procedure *200 – Trial Readiness.</p> <p>All Case Management Orders previously issued on any civil cases commenced on or after January 1, 2019 where the case has not yet been placed in the Arbitration Inventory or Civil Trial Inventory are hereby revoked.</p> <p>All Motions for Extraordinary Relief pending in civil cases commenced on or after January 1, 2019 are denied as moot.</p> <p>Civil cases commenced prior to January 1, 2019 shall continue to be subject to Local Rule 200 and any Case Management Orders issued thereunder shall remain in effect.</p>

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Northampton County	Jurors summoned to report on January 6, 2021 are excused.	December 31, 2020	Jury trials must be held in person. With the exception of jury trials, once a case is assigned to a Judge for disposition, the assigned judge may conduct the trial, hearing, or conference either in person, with Polycom video conferencing, or with Skype for Business video conferencing.
Northumberland County	Suspended through January 31, 2021	January 31, 2021	Jury trials are suspended through January 2021 but may be held in February 2021.
Philadelphia County	In-person jury trials are scheduled to resume March 1, 2021	June 1, 2020	Settlement conferences in civil matters will be relisted before a Judge Pro Tempore who has the ability and technology to conduct conferences remotely using Zoom or similar software. Arbitration hearings are proceeding as scheduled via Zoom. Subsequent to December 7, 2020, the Court will be proceed with non-jury trials in the Arbitration Appeal and Major Non-Jury programs via Zoom.
Pike County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	
Potter County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	
Schuylkill County	Proceeding as scheduled	March 8, 2021	Face masks required for anyone entering county buildings.
Snyder / Union Counties	Proceeding as scheduled	None – emergency extended until further notice	Masks or other facial coverings are required. All court proceedings shall be conducted in accord with state and federal social distancing guidelines. Only necessary participants will be allowed into courtrooms and hearing rooms.
Somerset County	Proceeding as scheduled	None – emergency extended until further notice	All persons entering Court facilities shall comply with the Pa DOH Order regarding universal mask wearing, issued on November 17, 2020.
Sullivan / Wyoming Counties	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	Visitors are encouraged, but not required, to make appointments with County offices prior to arriving. Visitors must wear and provide their own face covering. Visitors may be subject to a temperature screening. Access may be denied due to an elevated temperature (100.4 and higher). Public visitor counts will be monitored to ensure the building occupancy rate does not exceed 50% of the standard occupancy rate (per DOH standards). Visitors may be required to wait if the Courthouse is at full occupancy.
Susquehanna County	Proceeding as scheduled	June 1, 2020	
Tioga County	Canceled and to be rescheduled after December 31, 2020	December 31, 2020	A health check of all staff and visitors will be conducted. All staff and visitors are required to wear cloth face coverings while in County facilities. Visitors are encouraged to access services remotely where possible.

Court	Jury Trial Status	Judicial Emergency End Date	Arbitrations and Other Guidance
Venango County	Suspended until further notice	None – extended until further notice	<p>Individuals shall be required to follow CDC guidelines for access to public buildings and complying with all safety directives provided by the presiding Judge.</p> <p>Exemption requests should be directed to the ADA Coordinator no later than 3 days before the event.</p> <p>The Court’s attempt to schedule jury trials is suspended. Potential jury selection and trial dates for December 2020 are canceled.</p>
Washington County	Canceled through January 31, 2021	March 31, 2021	<p>Conferences and proceedings shall be conducted using ACT.</p> <p>All individuals shall submit to a temperature check and comply with the order of the DOH requiring face coverings.</p> <p>Arbitration hearings are proceeding as scheduled using Microsoft Teams.</p>
Wayne County	Canceled through January 31, 2021	January 31, 2021	<p>The January 2021 trial term is canceled. All matters will be individually rescheduled.</p> <p>Motions Court remains canceled.</p>
Westmoreland County	Suspended until February 1, 2021	February 1, 2021	Civil Motions Practice will resume on Friday, May 15, 2020, subject to the new practices and procedures for contested motions, which shall remain in place until further notice.
York County	Suspended through February 28, 2021	March 31, 2021	

As always, we are available to discuss your questions or concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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