


**SUPERIOR COURTS
APPALACHIAN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. John E. Worcester, Superior Court Judge
Hon. Mary Elizabeth Priest, Superior Court Judge
Hon. Keith M. Galligan, Chief Juvenile Court Judge
Hon. Patricia A. King, Juvenile Court Judge
Ms. B. Alison Sosebee, District Attorney
Hon. David W. Lindsey, Probate Judge
Hon. Scott Chastain, Probate Judge
Hon. R. Scott Kiker, Probate Judge
Hon. Alan Morris, Magistrate Judge
Hon. Kevin Johnson, Magistrate Judge
Hon. Brian Jones, Magistrate Judge
Ms. Jennifer Jordan, Superior Court Clerk
Ms. Amy Johnson, Superior Court Clerk
Ms. Dana Chastain, Superior Court Clerk
Sheriff Donnie Craig, Pickens County
Sheriff Stacy Nicholson, Gilmer County
Sheriff Dane Kirby, Fannin County
Attorneys in the Appalachian Judicial Circuit

FROM: Brenda S. Weaver, Chief Judge 

DATE: April 1, 2022

RE: Covid-19 Policies

After discussion with Judge Worcester and Judge Priest, for the month of April, 2022, the following Covid-19 guidelines will apply:

1. All cases, civil and criminal, will be heard either personally, virtually, or using a hybrid method (virtual and in-person combined) at the assigned judge's discretion. This includes criminal cases involving inmates whose cases may be addressed via WebEx. Large arraignment calendars should be avoided and cases staggered whenever possible. Virtual hearings are encouraged whenever possible to lessen the number of individuals in the courtroom.
2. The presiding judge shall determine how cases are scheduled and calendared for his or her court date. The staff for each of the three Superior Court Judges shall schedule all of their civil court hearings.
3. Any individual in court may choose to wear a mask, but masks will only be required at the discretion of the presiding judge.
4. Jury trials and Grand Jury proceedings will continue in each county. Covid-19 guidelines will be in effect at the presiding judge's discretion.

Individuals working in the courthouses who have tested positive for Covid should not return to work until they provide a negative test. If you have staff who have been exposed but have no symptoms and do not test positive, CDC guidelines state that they can continue to work as long as they wear a mask in their office. As new guidelines become available, we will update this guideline.