



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

**SUPREME COURT
APPELLATE COURT**

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Notice Regarding Supreme Court and Appellate Court Hearings

The Supreme Court and Appellate Court will hear cases in their respective courtrooms beginning the first term of court year 2020-2021. Below are the instructions and expectations for on-site hearings.

1. Anyone entering either the Supreme Court building or the Appellate Court building will be required to follow Judicial Branch protocol which requires a face covering or mask when entering the building.
2. Masks will be mandatory for all attendees at all times while in the courtrooms.
3. Supreme Court Justices and Appellate Court Judges, as well as court staff, will also be required to wear masks while in the courtroom.
4. The configuration of the Supreme Court will be altered for safety, in that three Justices will sit on the existing bench and four Justices will sit on an extended riser below and distanced from the existing Supreme Court bench. Counsel table will be distanced from the bench and two podiums will be distanced from counsel table and will be separated as well.
5. Arguing counsel of record at the Supreme Court will be allowed to sit at counsel table and will use the podium nearest their location. Additional counsel of record will be provided seating, physically distanced, in front of the gallery.
6. Arguing counsel of record at the Appellate Court will present their arguments from counsel tables using microphones set up for this purpose. Additional counsel of record will be provided seating, physically distanced, in front of the gallery.

7. Morning cases in the Appellate Court will be begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be scheduled at 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Cases in the Supreme Court will be begin at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Please arrive 10 minutes prior to the start of your scheduled argument. Both courtrooms will be cleaned in between arguments.
8. If a determination is made that it is necessary for an assigned case to be heard remotely, the hearing will be either a Microsoft TEAMS platform or a Cisco Platform. There is also the possibility of audio argument only for parties who do not have computer access and have been granted relief from having to appear on site.
9. As there will be limited gallery seating at the Supreme Court, a streaming platform is being pursued to maximize public access. A streaming platform will not be available for oral arguments at the Appellate Court. Audio recordings of the oral arguments in both courts will continue to be available on the Judicial Branch website the day of argument or the next business day.