

PHASED REOPENING TIMELINE

The Circuit Court for Prince George's County will employ a **six (6) phased reopening process** that will incorporate social distancing, health screenings, requirements for wearing face masks/face coverings, remote hearings, teleworking, rotating schedules, reduced dockets, staggered hearings and a gradual introduction of the public into the building. The timeline below may be amended to accommodate changes in the containment of the virus.

3/16/2020 PHASE ONE

12 weeks

The Circuit Court is closed to the public with limited exceptions and handling those emergency and urgent, including matters that can be resolved without a proceeding and/or remotely, as outlined in the May 4, 2020 Fourth Amended Administrative Order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

6/8/2020 PHASE TWO

6 weeks

Some staff return to the courthouse with the incorporation of social distancing. A limited number of in-person hearings will be scheduled and the Court will expand the use of remote hearings on other matters. Uncontested hearings and services such as mediation, parenting classes, training, etc. continue remotely. The courthouse will still be generally closed to the public.

7/20/2020 PHASE THREE

6 weeks

The courthouse will gradually reopen to the public, subject to health screenings prior to entry. Some courthouse services resume; proceedings may occur onsite. Hearing types increase, but with scheduling restricted to limit flow of individuals in the courthouse. Remote hearings encouraged where possible.

8/31/2020 PHASE FOUR

5 weeks

In this phase, we will increase in the number of matters that will be heard including contested hearing and bench trials. Remote status hearings and uncontested matters permitted. Additional increase in courthouse staff working on site. Teleworking and flexible scheduling adjusted based on staffing needs.

10/5/2020 PHASE FIVE

Jury trials resume. Remote hearings and staggered dockets will continue where possible.

TBD PHASE SIX

Full operations resume with COVID-19 being identified as contained and no longer impacting court operations.