



Superior Court of California  
COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

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## Memorandum re Criminal and Juvenile Cases During the Covid-19 Court Closure

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**Date:** Updated as of July 10, 2020

The Court provides the following information to address questions concerning the COVID-19 closure period. The Court will update this document as needed. We appreciate your patience during this ever-changing, fluid situation.

### ADULT CRIMINAL COURT DATES BETWEEN MARCH 17, 2020 AND MAY 31, 2020 (the “Closure Period”).

#### 1. How were time waiver appearances being reset during the Closure Period?

Between March 17 and May 31, 2020, all time waiver appearances, whether misdemeanor or felony, in or out of custody, were being reset to a date **at least 8 weeks** from the currently set calendar date.

Starting the week of April 27, judges have been holding “informal settlement calendars” via BlueJeans videoconference to actively promote case resolution and set future court dates when needed.

#### 2. Were notices being sent regarding these reset dates?

No, the Court did not send notices unless there were unusual circumstances. Counsel were directed to notify their clients of the new court dates. If the court date being continued was a first appearance arraignment, the District Attorney’s Office (DAO) was sending notice. Attorneys and parties continue to be encouraged to check the [Odyssey Portal](#) regularly to confirm their newly scheduled dates.

#### 3. How were No Time Waiver (NTW) cases being handled during the Closure Period?

The Court, DAO, Public Defender’s Office (PDO), and members of the private defense bar ran all criminal calendars during the Closure Period to track NTW cases with dates currently set. Attorneys involved in those cases discussed the appropriate course of action for each. The Court expedited the signing of orders stipulating to the release of defendants in those cases. The most efficient way to process any such stipulations was

to use the Court's [Odyssey E Filing System](#) and jointly request an ex parte order rather than requesting a new hearing date.

#### **IN-CUSTODY DEFENDANTS**

#### **4. Has the Court or its partners done anything to facilitate the release of in-custody defendants during the Closure Period?**

Yes. The Court and its partners have consistently worked to facilitate the release of in custody defendants where individual case circumstances permit. Examples of these efforts include the following:

- Alameda County Sheriff Ahern and District Attorney O'Malley have communicated with local law enforcement, encouraging the "cite release" of arrestees wherever appropriate. Arrestees being "cited out" are being given court dates 8 weeks from their date of arrest.
- The Court and the Probation Department continue to operate the pretrial risk assessment pilot to facilitate the pre-arraignment release of eligible arrestees.
- On Monday, March 16, 2020, the Court held a special "OR Calendar" at our Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse (WWM) in Oakland to consider requests to release in-custody defendants on their own recognizance (OR) pending trial. 67 individuals were granted OR and were subsequently released. Judges continue to conduct ongoing OR reviews in advance of each of the arraignment calendars.
- On Thursday, March 19, 2020, upon the joint request of the Court's criminal justice partners, including the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and the Alameda County Defense Bar, the Court ordered the immediate, early release of 247 previously sentenced inmates who had been otherwise scheduled for release at varying times through April 30, 2020. They will be considered to have served their full sentence. The Court issued similar release orders on April 10 and April 13 for an additional 34 persons with 90 days or fewer remaining on their sentences.
- On Friday, March 20, 2020, upon the joint request of the Court's criminal justice partners, including the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and the Alameda County Defense Bar, the Court ordered the immediate, early release or OR release of 8 individuals deemed "vulnerable". Those released early will be considered to have served their full sentence; those OR'd were given a new court date in 8 weeks.
- On Wednesday, March 25, 2020, upon the joint request of the Court's criminal justice partners, including the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and the Alameda County Defense Bar, the Court authorized the in field or after booking citation release of individuals arrested on bench warrants in connection with most misdemeanor offenses, diversion programs, and Alameda County Collaborative

Courts. Those “cite released” individuals will be issued a “promise to appear” 8 weeks from their arrest date.

- Consistent with the JCC’s Emergency Bail Rule and the Court’s related Emergency Order, on April 13, 14, and 16, the Court reset bail at \$0.00 for an additional 35 persons ordered released.
- The Court, DAO, and defense counsel are communicating daily concerning defendants with sentencing dates during the Closure Period that contemplate release at sentencing. The goal is to order the release now of all eligible defendants and re-set sentencing dates from an out-of-custody basis.
- The Court is encouraging counsel in all criminal matters to reach stipulated agreements regarding dispositions, release dates, and court continuances and to electronically file (eFile) such stipulations and requests for orders on an ex parte basis. The Court will review and make such orders without need for calendared court appearances.

**5. Did the Court adopt a new bail schedule during the Closure Period?**

Yes, on April 2, 2020, the Court adopted a new Emergency Bail Schedule to be effective during the Closure Period. On April 7, 2020, the Court amended this [Emergency Bail Schedule](#) to complement the JCC’s related Emergency Rule 4 issued on April 6, 2020.

(Note: to ensure that \$0.00 bail is not misinterpreted as a “no bail hold”, we have directed law enforcement to enter \$0.01 in their case management systems, but arrestees will not be required to post a penny.)

After the JCC announced the repeal of Emergency Rule 4, the Court implemented its own version of the Zero Bail Schedule, effective June 20, 2020. This schedule can be found in Emergency Local Rules [4.115](#) and [4.116](#).

**6. Did the Court recalculate the bail of pretrial detainees pursuant to Emergency Rule 4?**

Yes. Subsequent to the enactment of Emergency Rule 4, the Court worked with ACSO and the Alameda County Office of Information Technology to secure lists of pretrial detainees as of April 6, 2020. The Court reviewed those lists under the standards set forth in the new Emergency Bail Schedule and Emergency Rule 4, and made modifications where the Court considered appropriate. The Court provided notice of such modifications to the DAO, as required by the Rule, associated advisory memorandum, and Marsy’s Law. The Court’s ultimate release orders are linked on the COVID-19 web page. For privacy reasons, and with the consent of defense counsel, the actual lists cannot be published. However, liaison members of the DAO, PDO, ACBA,

and CAAP have the issued lists and can provide information to attorneys of record upon their request.

**7. If my client was not released as part of the Court's initial recalculation, what can I do?**

On Friday, April 17, 2020, the Court specially set a bail hearing calendar in Dept. 105 of WWM to enable members of the defense bar to bring bail motions concerning pretrial detainees they believe should have been released under the new bail schedules. 80 matters were calendared on that date by members of the PDO and private defense bar.

**8. Will there be another opportunity for me to make a bail motion on my client's behalf?**

Yes. The Court has created an electronic bail review opportunity for all interested counsel. Counsel are to contact the DAO to notice their motion for bail release. If the DAO agrees, counsel can eFile a joint stipulation for release, requesting a related order be issued. If the DAO objects, both prosecution and defense can jointly electronically file their motion and opposition. The jointly filed motion should include in the heading a request for bail review on the submitted pleadings. A judge will rule on these eFiled motions remotely on a rolling basis and will order releases as appropriate.

In addition, the Court is temporarily offering additional non-appearance court opportunities for bail hearings on Tuesdays and Fridays in Dept. 105. Interested parties who have not engaged in the above remote process must timely notice and file bail motions to be heard on these calendars. No defendants will be brought in to court. Attorneys may appear via BlueJeans videoconference.

In view of declining bail motion requests, the Court reduced this calendar to Tuesdays-only in June, and eliminated the separate calendar the week of June 15. For new cases, bail motions may be heard at the time of arraignment or plea. For older cases, contested bail motions based on changed circumstances are now brought in our newly re-instituted law & motion departments. Counsel can still eFile bail/release stipulations electronically to be processed, as well as contested bail motions to be decided on the papers.

**9. If an arrestee is released on their own recognizance (OR'd) or posts bail, what will the next court date be?**

Arrestees who are OR'd or bail out of custody will be given a new court date at least 8 weeks from the date of their release. Please check the [Odyssey Portal](#) regularly to confirm future dates.

**10. During the Closure Period, was the Court conducting arraignments for those arrestees who are detained in custody pending the filing of criminal charges?**

The [Emergency Order](#) granted by the Chair of the Judicial Council authorized the extension of the usual 48-hour adult criminal arraignment standard to 7 days during the Closure Period.

During the Closure Period, the Court worked with its justice partners to maintain in-custody arraignment calendars within the limitations of our COVID-19-related staffing and health and safety constraints. The Court conducted in-custody arraignments only (no out-of-custody arraignments), on Tuesdays and Fridays in one or more court locations.

These first, test, in-custody arraignment calendars began on Friday, March 20, 2020. East and South County misdemeanors were heard in Dept. 702 at the East County Hall of Justice (ECHOJ); felonies were heard in Dept. 705. North County misdemeanors were heard in Dept. 111 at WWM; felonies were heard in Dept. 112.

On Friday, March 26, 2020, the Court conducted its first, test video arraignment calendar in Dept. 105 at WWM. As a result, all felony arraignments were heard at ECHOJ starting Friday, March 26. (Please see FAQ No. 8. for additional details.) Starting Friday, April 17, 2020, Depts. 702 and 705 began conducting video arraignments for all in custody matters, felony and misdemeanor, enabling Dept. 105 to address the bail hearings discussed above.

**11. During the Closure Period, was the Court conducting video arraignments for those arrestees who are detained in custody pending the filing of criminal charges?**

The Court conducted a test video arraignment calendar on Friday, March 27, 2020, in Department 105 at WWM. This calendar was comprised of in-custody arrestees countywide charged with misdemeanor offenses. Arrestees appeared from Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail (SRJ) via videoconference and were linked to and broadcast in the courtroom with a view of the judge presiding over the arraignment calendar. Members of the DAO, PDO, and defense bar were present in the courtroom at WWM and were also able to join the videoconference remotely.

No-contact interview rooms are available in the ITR section of SRJ for attorneys who wish to interview arrestees prior to arraignment. In addition, Probation has offered the defense bar additional video interview opportunities on Monday and Thursday afternoons. As the Court and ACSO have expanded video resources, additional interview opportunities are sometimes available out of SRJ Rooms 412 and 413 on

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for defendants calendared for Preliminary Examination.

**12. Did the Court repeat this video arraignment test?**

Yes. The Court did repeat this video arraignment test. The second video arraignment calendar took place on Wednesday, April 1, 2020 in Department 105 at WWM. Again, this calendar was comprised of in-custody arrestees countywide charged with misdemeanor offenses.

As part of this video arraignment test calendar, on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, the location of felony arraignments countywide shifted to ECHOJ. South and East County felonies were arraigned in 705. North and West County felonies were arraigned in 702. Starting April 17, 702 and 705 began conducting remote video arraignments; 105's misdemeanor arraignments were shifted to 705 for that purpose.

**13. When will felony arraignments be conducted remotely?**

On April 6, 2020, the JCC adopted Emergency Rule 3, which promotes the use of remote technology to conduct judicial proceedings wherever possible and provided, “[c]ourts may require that judicial proceedings and court operations be conducted remotely.”

After multiple conversations within the Court and with our justice partners, and taking into consideration the dramatic reduction in misdemeanor arraignments (thanks to the Court's release efforts), on Friday, April 17, 2020, the Court began two remote video arraignment departments at ECHOJ. Dept. 702 heard all North County felony arraignments. Dept. 705 heard all East and South County felony arraignments as well as the few remaining countywide misdemeanor matters. Counsel appeared both in-person in operating departments and remotely via the Court's BlueJeans videoconference platforms.

BlueJeans access numbers are the same as the public telephone numbers for each operating department. Representatives from the DAO, PDO, ACBA, and CAAP have additional passwords for attorneys wishing to participate and appear remotely.

**IN-CUSTODY AND NO TIME WAIVER CASES DURING THE CLOSURE PERIOD**

**14. How much time will I have to talk to my client during the in-custody arraignments during the Closure Period?**

Counsel will have limited time – if any – to speak to their clients during these in-custody arraignment dates; and judicial officers retain the authority to restrict interviews in order to appropriately manage their arraignment calendars. The calendars will be large, interview space is limited, and the Court will continue to attempt to comply with the Alameda County Public Health Department’s 6-foot social distancing guidelines.

Accordingly, the Court strongly recommends that defense counsel speak or meet with their clients and members of the DAO *before* their scheduled arraignment date. Any matters not handled on the scheduled arraignment date will be continued to a future date for further arraignment.

**15. What future dates will be scheduled at the in-custody arraignment during the Closure Period?**

The future court date scheduled will depend on the case. Here are some common examples:

- If a defendant is OR’d at arraignment, a future court date will be set 8 weeks later.
- If a defendant charged with a misdemeanor is detained at arraignment, enters a plea of not guilty, and chooses not to waive time, a no-time-waiver (NTW) court or jury trial date will be set consistent with any applicable Emergency Orders. Post-PX NTW felony jury trials are being set in the same fashion.
- If a defendant charged with a felony is detained at arraignment, enters a plea of not guilty, and chooses not to waive time, a NTW preliminary examination (PX) date will be set around the 20<sup>th</sup> day. (The [Statewide Emergency Order](#) granted by the Chair of the Judicial Council authorizes the extension of 10-court day speedy preliminary examination rights to 30 court days.)

At this time, the Court does not have the resources to formally calendar intervening court dates, however, as noted above, the Court has set up a system of “informal settlement conferences” to facilitate case disposition and management. The Court otherwise encourages counsel to actively meet and confer concerning case resolution and notice the court of any related stipulations through the Court’s [Odyssey E Filing System](#).

**16. Has the Court been holding a PX calendar during the Closure Period?**

In view of the time standards set forth in the [Emergency Order](#), the Court opened its first PX calendar in Dept. 709 at ECHOJ, starting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. On Tuesday, April 21, 2020, the PX department shifted to 713. All NTW PXs set countywide during the Closure Period will be set in this department.

These PXs were initially conducted remotely (unless a defendant declined to consent to a remote appearance, in which case the defendant was transported to court). However, when the Chief Justice's emergency arraignment extension was rescinded in June, requiring the Court to provide daily remote arraignment opportunities, SRJ's limited video capabilities required all PX defendants to be transported to Court for in person appearances.

Please note, throughout the Closure Period, the Court will continue to be closed to the public, and the Court strongly urges all attorneys, parties, and witnesses to participate in Court proceedings remotely. All persons entering our courthouses must wear face coverings over their nose and mouth per Alameda County Department of Public Health guidelines and must participate in the health screenings being conducted at our volunteer desks. Non-compliant visitors will be asked to leave court facilities.

For those attorneys who wish to appear in person, when entering local courthouses they must show their bar or employee cards upon entrance at weapons screening stations. Only defendants with scheduled court appearances and witnesses properly subpoenaed will be allowed to enter ECHOJ (or other court facilities when open). They must be accompanied by an attorney or must show their notice to appear, court reminder, or subpoena. Family, friends, or companions of witnesses or defendants will not be permitted to enter unless lawfully permitted as a victim support person.

**17. Is the Court conducting felony preliminary examinations remotely?**

Yes. With the help of ACSO, SRJ made available the "Sandy Turner" classroom for remote preliminary examinations. On Monday, April 20, 2020, the Court conducted a series of test PX's, inviting counsel, court reporters, court clerks, interpreters, and other Court staff to participate and test the system. The first remote PX calendar then took place out of Dept. 713 on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Since then, all no time waiver preliminary examinations have been calendared in Dept. 713, and felony dispositions are being heard in Dept. 709.

Starting the week of June 15, 2020, the Court adjusted its remote PX schedule in order to accommodate the request of the Court's justice partners for additional remote calendars from our limited video spaces (specifically sentencing and motion calendars).

Defendants with in custody, NTW PXs are now transported to Dept. 713 at ECHOJ, where they can appear in person. Counsel, witnesses, bench officers, and certain Court staff still have the opportunity to appear remotely via our BlueJeans videoconference platform.

**18. Were telephonic or video appearances available to counsel during the Closure Period?**

Initially, in view of the COVID-19 crisis and related health directives, the Court exercised its authority under the Emergency Order to permit telephonic appearances in criminal matters.

Subsequently, in view of the Emergency Orders and Rules promulgated by the Chief Justice and JCC, and the repeated extension of the Closure Period, the Court has moved to remote BlueJeans video appearances for all operating courtrooms.

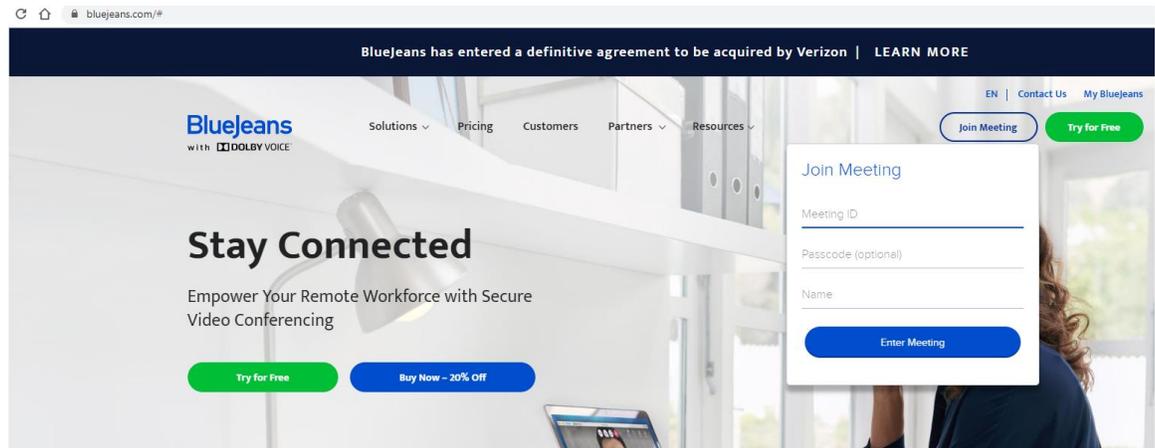
Even now, outside the Closure Period, the Court continues to encourage and prioritize remote video appearances in all of its courtrooms.

The Court also [Live-Streams](#) audio-recordings for each active courtroom to enable public access to court proceedings.

**19. How does one access BlueJeans?**

Access numbers for BlueJeans match the public telephone numbers for each courthouse department. Numbers can be found in the [Department Directory](#). Representatives of the DAO, PDO, ACBA, and CAAP each have a list of the related passcodes to access each videoconference.

BlueJeans can be easily operated from a computer or mobile device through either the BlueJeans application or URL: <https://www.bluejeans.com/#>. As shown below, the URL provides a "Join Meeting" dropdown where you enter the department-specific meeting number to gain access.



## ADD-ONS & DISPOSITIONS

### 20. Can newly charged cases or other matters be added on to the arraignment calendars for the same day?

Generally, no. Charges relating to new arrests must be filed by 4:00 PM before the next arraignment day. E.g., For a case to be on Tuesday's arraignment calendar, it must be filed by 4:00 PM on Monday; for a case to be on Friday's arraignment calendar, it must be filed by 4:00 PM on Thursday. Charges filed after the 4:00 PM deadline will be put over to the following arraignment date unless a specific add-on request is granted.

Note: judicial officers have the discretionary authority to make limited exceptions, for example, if the next arraignment date is more than 48 hours from the date of arrest (this is the purpose of the Thursday arraignment overflow calendar). Otherwise, attorney add-on requests will generally be denied.

### 21. If my client in a misdemeanor matter wishes to make a change of plea, how can I resolve their case?

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing mandates the Court is attempting to follow, the Court is accepting misdemeanor pleas *in absentia*. Members of the DAO and defense counsel are encouraged to reach joint resolution of matters resulting in misdemeanor dispositions. They can then electronically file these dispositions for remote judicial review and acceptance (the necessary paperwork is linked on the Court's COVID-19 webpage and includes waiver forms, fine and fee breakdowns, and DUI admonitions). If completed and submitted jointly and in full, and the Court agrees, the reviewing judge will accept the plea and either vacate or set future

dates as may be appropriate. If the paperwork is incomplete or the Court disagrees with the proposed disposition, the plea will be rejected.

The Court will not add misdemeanor dispositions on its limited court calendars. No physical appearances are expected and generally will not be permitted.

In addition, starting the week of April 27, 2020, the pre-COVID pretrial departments began hosting weekly “informal settlement conferences”. Defense counsel should email the department asking to be added on calendar and should contact the DAO in advance to secure the current offers on active cases, so that they can confer with their clients in advance of these “informal settlement calendars.”

**22. If my client has a probation, parole, or PRCS violation and wishes to admit, how can I resolve their case?**

The Court has developed a written [waiver form](#) that may be used in all probation, parole, and PRCS cases where a defendant wishes to enter an admission. This form can be eFiled, as with the misdemeanor dispositions, so no court appearance is necessary. Accordingly, supervision violations will not be added on calendar for disposition.

In addition, Dept. 706 is holding “informal settlement conferences” via videoconference concerning pending felony supervision violations on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. Defense counsel should contact the DAO to secure offers in advance of these settlement conferences.

**23. If my client in a felony matter wishes to make a change of plea, how can I resolve their case? Can I add the matter on calendar during the Closure Period?**

Felony matters resolving to a misdemeanor or a violation of supervision can be done remotely using the misdemeanor plea forms and supervision admission forms linked to our COVID-19 web page.

For in-custody felony matters scheduled for no time waiver preliminary examinations; counsel must notify Dept. 713 by 4:00 PM the day before the scheduled PX date to notify the Court if there is an anticipated disposition. As time and resources permit, those advance-noticed dispositions are being re-set in Dept. 709 on the otherwise scheduled PX date.

**24. What other “informal settlement conferences” are there?**

The schedule for informal settlement conferences via BlueJeans videoconference is as follows:

- Dept. 2 – North County felony 1368’s, SVPs, MDOs
- Dept. 4 – Countywide NTW PX settlement calendar and North County felony PTH calendar, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 11 – North County post-PX settlement calendar, R&S re-settings
- Dept. 107 – Countywide Collaborative Courts, including John George, daily, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 108 – Even-numbered misdemeanors, Mondays , 9:00 AM
- Dept. 111 – Odd-numbered misdemeanors, Thursdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 109 – Countywide misdemeanors with jury trial dates, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 115 – Countywide Restitution Calendar and Clean Slate, Tuesdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 704 – East/South County, post-PX settlement calendar, 1368’s, R&S re-settings, Thursdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 706 – Felony PV/Parole/PRCS settlement calendar and Mental Health/1368 status calendar, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 711 – East/South County misdemeanors, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM
- Dept. 712 – East/South County felony PTH, Thursdays, 9:00 AM

**25. Since the expiration of the Closure Period, what new or additional calendars are the Court running?**

Throughout the month of June 2020, the Court has continued to open new formal calendars as listed below. Participants are expected to appear remotely via BlueJeans. Defendants or counsel who wish to appear in person are ordered to appear in Dept. 708 for that purpose.

- In Custody Arraignments Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (with overflow as needed Thursday afternoons)
  - North County, D-702
  - South/East County D-712
- Felony Law & Motion – Mondays, D-8, starting at 10:30 AM
- Misdemeanor Law & Motion
  - South/East County, D-708, Wednesdays
  - North County, D-708, Fridays

- Felony Report & Sentencing
  - North County, D-702
  - South/East County D-712
- Master Readiness Calendars
  - North County, D-702
  - South/East County D-712

**26. When will the Court resume jury trials?**

In June, the Court began resuming civil and criminal jury trials that had been suspended at the time of the Closure Period.

The Court began summoning jurors for new jury trials starting the week of June 29, 2020. To start, criminal jury trials will be held at the RCD and ECHOJ courthouses. In July, trials may be held at the WWM Courthouse if additional space is needed.

**27. What safety precautions has the Court put in place since the resumption of jury trials?**

In addition to the regular cleaning and other safety measures outlined on the Court's COVID-19 web page and juror information pages, the Court's Security and Facilities Team has walked all trial departments and Jury Assembly Rooms (JARs) countywide and has marked off seating at County Public Health-required socially distanced intervals of 6' or greater.

In addition, two trial departments at each of ECHOJ, RCD, WWM, HHJ, and Admin are being outfitted with a Plexiglas barrier around the witness stand and a Plexiglas trifold around the attorney podium. These barriers are intended to provide additional protection but generally do not obviate the need to wear face coverings wearing.

**COLLABORATIVE COURTS**

**28. How are matters in the Collaborative Courts being scheduled?**

Due to the specialized nature of our Collaborative Courts (including Veterans Court, ReEntry Court, Early Intervention Court, Behavioral Court, and Drug Court), our Collaborative Court judges are working with attorneys and service providers to set new court dates and provide telephonic resources based on the individualized service needs of each particular client. These dates are generally being scheduled within 60 to 90 days of the dates currently calendared during the Closure Period.

**29. Were new cases referred to the Collaborative Courts during the Closure Period?**

The Collaborative Courts were generally not accepting new referrals during the Closure Period, largely because the nature of the COVID-19 crisis requires remote communications between the court, stakeholders, and existing collaborative court participants.

However, the Collaborative Courts considered occasional referrals on a case-by-case basis, as part of release considerations when appropriate supportive resources were known to be available. Please contact the Collaborative Court Supervising Judge if you believe you have an appropriate client.

**30. Are new cases now being referred to the Collaborative Courts?**

Yes. With the help of the Court's stakeholders and community partners, the Collaborative Courts are now taking new referrals. Every Collaborative Court is now open and running regularly in a remote video format via the Court's BlueJeans platform.

**JUVENILE MATTERS**

**31. Are Juvenile detention hearings being heard during the Closure Period?**

The [Emergency Order](#) granted by the Chair of the Judicial Council authorizes the extension of the usual 48-hour juvenile detention standard to 7 days.

Starting Friday, March 20, 2020, the Court began hearing juvenile detention hearings in 300 and 600 matters in two departments on Tuesdays and Fridays. Since then, the Court has substantially expanded its juvenile hearings to enable court sessions Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday in both 300 and 600 matters.

Case types being heard include the following

- 600 Matters
  - Detention Hearings
  - Jurisdictional Hearings
  - Disposition Hearings
  - 241.1 Hearings
  - Emergency Progress reports
- 300 Matters
  - Detention Hearings
  - Jurisdictional Hearings

- Disposition Hearings
- 366.26 Hearings
- Report & Review Hearings
- JV 180 hearings, where the health and safety of the child is at issue
- Non-minor dependent re-entry hearings

The Juvenile Court hopes to expand to hearings 5 days a week, starting the week of July 20, 2020.

**32. Are Juvenile Hearings being conducted in person or remotely?**

The Juvenile Justice Center continues to be closed to the public. All juvenile cases are being heard remotely via the Court's BlueJeans videoconference platform. Please contact the following Court employees to get Juvenile-specific information about remote video appearances:

- Kameko Whitt, 510-818-7561
- Cynthia Eugene, 510-818-7568

**33. What is the policy for continuing Juvenile Detention and Dependency matters during the Closure Period?**

The [Emergency Order](#) granted by the Chair of the Judicial Council authorizes the extension of the usual 15 court day Juvenile hearing standards by 15 calendar days for any hearing dates that would otherwise expire during the Closure Period.

The Court, Probation, Social Services, and counsel in both dependency and delinquency matters are conferring with these standards in mind and are continuing hearings to dates outside the Closure Period on a case-by-case basis. Probation and Social Services will notice the minors and their families/guardians as needed.

**34. Will the Juvenile Clerk's Window be open to the public for filings during the Closure Period?**

No, during the Closure Period, all courts, including Juvenile, are generally physically closed to the public, but with certain exceptions detailed herein and on the Court's COVID-19 webpage. That means all filing windows will be closed to the public, including attorneys (attorneys can eFile through the Court's [Odyssey EFiled System](#)). However, in the Juvenile setting, Probation, Social Services, and other legally necessary court partners will be permitted to file the following materials at Juvenile filing windows:

- 300 and 600 petitions
- Intake and Detention reports
- Warrants
- Any emergency medical request or JV220

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

### **35. How will the Court accommodate social distancing and other health and safety measures during any in-person court appearances?**

The Court and its justice partners are making every effort to comply with the most current health directives offered by the Alameda County Department of Public Health. These measures include the following:

- The Court is operating through remote telephone and video opportunities to the greatest extent possible.
- All court attendees are directed to wear face coverings and comply with social distancing guidelines (6-foot separation), wherever possible.
- Court attendees may be directed to leave the courthouse if non-compliant with face covering directives or exhibiting signs of illness.
- If inmates are brought to court, they are being transported in only partially-loaded buses to ensure sufficient spacing between passengers and are being brought to court in small groups to allow the greatest spacing that security measures permit.
- No more than 10 non-court/ACSO employees may be present in a courtroom at any time. ACSO is authorized to ask attorneys in excess of 10 to wait in the vestibule, outside halls, or other appropriate space.
- Attorneys must maintain a 6-foot distance from each other and are encouraged to use courtroom layouts to facilitate that separation (e.g., stand on either sides of the “bar” or counsel table).
- Jury Assembly Rooms have been spaced with marked seating to promote appropriate social distancing.
- In-used Courtrooms, interview spaces, and Jury Assembly Rooms are cleaned and disinfected after the conclusion of each open court session.

## **AFTER THE CLOSURE PERIOD**

### **36. Will the Court resume full operations after the Closure Period?**

In view of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the Court sought and was granted an extension to the initial March 17-April 3, 2020 Closure Period. Effective April 3, 2020, the Closure Period was extended to May 1, 2020. Effective, May 1, the Closure Period was further

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extended through May 29, 2020. Subsequently, the Court received a further jury trial extension. The Court's current jury trial extension expires July 15, 2020.

The Court will continue to consider the federal, state, and local health and safety directives, as well as the Orders and Advisories of the Governor and Chief Justice in deciding if any additional extension request or other relief is appropriate.

The Court will continue to update the public as to any related modifications through press releases, [Twitter announcements](#), and on its [COVID-19 webpage](#).