

# JUROR FAQ's

**The Court is being guided by general CDC and Department of Health recommendations. Our procedures regarding COVID are constantly evolving. Please check this page before your service date for further updates.**

Q: Why is the Court summoning jurors during a pandemic?

A: As the COVID-19 infection rates decrease and there has been an easing up on restrictions, Berks County Courts have resumed jury trials. We recognize that victims of crime and those accused of crimes have a Constitutional right to have those accusations addressed by a trial by jury.

Q: Are masks required for jury duty?

A: Masks are not requirement for entry into the Courthouse and Service Center buildings. Common Pleas Judges will continue to have discretion to determine whether they will/will not require the use of masks in their individual courtrooms by court and non-court personnel as well as the public.

Q: Should I bring my own lunch?

A: Jurors are welcome to bring their own lunch. Breakfast and lunch items are available for purchase from the Courthouse cafeteria.

Q: What if I am unable to serve as a juror?

A: Pennsylvania Law allows for exemption from jury duty. Valid exemptions include but are not limited to: (1) persons in active military service, and (2) persons who demonstrate undue hardship or extreme inconvenience. If you have any questions regarding exemption from jury duty, please contact Jury Services, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., by calling (610) 478-6401 or emailing [jury@countyofberks.com](mailto:jury@countyofberks.com). Please include your juror number and name, as well as the date of possible jury duty.

Q: What if I am a "high risk" individual?

A: Jurors who are defined by the Centers for Disease Control as high-risk if they contract the virus will be released from reporting for jury duty, if requested. The requests will be granted over the phone and these prospective jurors will not be required to report.

Q: What if I fail (refuse) to appear without explanation?

A: A Judge has many options to address failure to appear including contempt. However, our Judges are certainly aware of the current health situation. Please contact Jury Services, rather than fail to appear without explanation.

Q: What if I have symptoms of illness?

A: If you have any symptoms of illness, please DO NOT report. However, you must contact jury staff as soon as possible. See 'What if I am Unable to Serve' (above).