



United States District Court

EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

JUAN R. SÁNCHEZ
CHIEF JUDGE

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
601 MARKET STREET
SUITE 14613
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

Dear Prospective Grand Juror:

You are receiving this letter because you have been summoned to report for grand jury service in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly presented new challenges for all, and this court is no exception. In response to the pandemic, grand juries did not meet in our district for several months, and the selection of new grand jurors was temporarily suspended to protect the health and safety of all participants, including grand jurors. As conditions in the counties in our district have improved, we are beginning to resume these essential court operations on a limited basis with a number of additional precautions in place to protect health and safety.

Grand juries play an essential role in our federal criminal justice system. Grand juries are called upon to determine whether there is enough evidence to charge a person with a federal crime. Our Constitution requires that certain federal criminal charges be brought by an indictment returned by a grand jury. Even in these challenging times, the participation of grand jurors is critical to the administration of justice.

As we move forward, we want to assure you that the health and safety of everyone who comes into the courthouses within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is our first priority. We are closely following the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and state and local public health authorities. Based on the available guidance, we have implemented a number of precautions to protect health and safety. These precautions include:

1. **Face Masks:** Everyone entering the James A. Byrne U.S. Courthouse and the Robert N.C. Nix, Sr. Federal Building is required to wear a face mask. You will be required to wear your mask at all times while you are in these buildings. If you arrive at the building and realize that you forgot your mask, a Court Security Officer will provide you one.
2. **Public Space:** All public areas of the Byrne Courthouse and the Nix Building have been outfitted with hand sanitizer stations and social distancing signage, which indicates where to stand while waiting to enter the building and limits elevator occupancy to two people at a time.
3. **Grand Jury Selection Space:** To limit the number of people in one room at a time and ensure adequate room for social distancing, incoming grand jurors will be divided among several different rooms for the grand jury selection process.
4. **Meeting Space:** To ensure adequate room for social distancing, multiple larger courtrooms will be used for each grand jury proceeding. Hand sanitizer will be available for grand juror use in all meeting spaces.
5. **Parking,** as always, will be reimbursed if you would prefer to drive over taking public transportation.
6. **Daily Health Assessment:** Grand jurors are asked to review the attached Daily Health Assessment each day before reporting for service. Court staff are also asked to perform the Daily Health Assessment each day before reporting to work.
7. All court spaces are being thoroughly cleaned and sanitized at regular intervals.

We continue to monitor the situation in our district and make any necessary adjustments as we resume this important constitutional function in partnership with our grand jurors. Thank you for your patience, your cooperation, and, most of all, your service.

Sincerely,

Juan R. Sánchez
Chief Judge