

GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS ATTENDING IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- 1. ANY PERSON WITH SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 WHO HAS NOT HAD A COVID-19 VIRAL TEST FOLLOWING ONSET OF THE SYMPTOMS SHALL NOT ATTEND AN IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING AND SHALL CONTACT COUNSEL TO THE PANEL CHAIR**

Any person with symptoms of COVID-19 who has not had a COVID-19 viral test following onset of the symptoms shall not attend an in-person Full Commission hearing. Any party or attorney of record who cannot attend the Full Commission hearing shall contact Counsel to the Panel Chair by email or telephone at the earliest possible opportunity to receive further instructions.

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

- 2. ANY PERSON WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 AND HAS HAD SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 SHALL NOT ATTEND AN IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING AND SHALL CONTACT COUNSEL TO THE PANEL CHAIR UNLESS AT LEAST 5 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE SYMPTOM ONSET AND 24 HOURS WITH NO FEVER AND WITHOUT THE USE OF FEVER-REDUCING MEDICATIONS HAS PASSED AND OTHER COVID-19 SYMPTOMS ARE IMPROVING**

Any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 and has had symptoms of COVID-19 shall not attend an in-person Full Commission hearing unless all of the following have occurred: (1) At least 5 days have passed since the COVID-19 symptoms first appeared; and (2) 24 hours with no fever and without the use of fever-reducing medications has passed; and (3) other symptoms of COVID-19 (meaning symptoms other than fever) are improving.

Additionally, any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 and has had symptoms of COVID-19 shall wear a high-quality mask while attending any in-person Full Commission hearing for an additional 5 days after the end of the isolation period.

Any party or attorney of record who cannot attend the Full Commission hearing shall contact Counsel to the Panel Chair by email or telephone at the earliest possible opportunity to receive further instructions.

- 3. ANY PERSON WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 BUT HAS HAD NO SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 SHALL NOT ATTEND AN IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING AND SHALL CONTACT COUNSEL TO THE PANEL CHAIR UNLESS AT LEAST 5 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST**

Any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 but has not had any symptoms shall not attend an in-person Full Commission hearing unless at least 5 days have passed since the positive test.

Additionally, any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 but has had no symptoms of COVID-19 shall wear a high-quality mask while attending any in-person Full Commission hearing for an additional 5 days after the 5-day isolation period.

Any party or attorney of record who cannot attend the Full Commission hearing shall contact Counsel to the Panel Chair by email or telephone at the earliest possible opportunity to receive further instructions.

- 4. ANY PERSON WHO HAS NO SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 AND HAS NOT TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 BUT WHO HAS, AT ANY TIME DURING THE 10-DAY PERIOD PRIOR TO AN IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING, HAD A KNOWN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER PERSON WHO HAS COVID-19 SHALL WEAR A HIGH-QUALITY MASK AT ALL TIMES DURING THE IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING. *(NOTE: IF THE IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR DAY 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, OR 10 FOLLOWING THE KNOWN CONTACT, THE RESULTS OF A COVID-19 VIRAL TEST SHALL BE OBTAINED BEFORE ATTENDING THE IN-PERSON FULL COMMISSION HEARING).***

Any person who has no symptoms of COVID-19 and has not tested positive for COVID-19 but who has, at any time during the 10-day period prior to an in-person Full Commission hearing, had a known contact with another person who has COVID-19 shall wear a high-quality mask at all times during the in-person Full Commission hearing.

NOTE: If the in-person Full Commission hearing is scheduled for Day 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or 10 following the known contact, the results of a COVID-19 viral test shall be obtained before the in-person Full Commission hearing. If the results of the test are positive, the instructions for Guideline #2 on page 1 of these Guidelines shall be followed.

ALSO NOTE: If any symptoms of COVID-19 develop prior to the start of the in-person Full Commission hearing, the instructions for Guideline #1 on page 1 of these Guidelines shall be followed.

5. MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, HAND HYGIENE, AND OTHER COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Full Commission will follow the COVID-19 safety protocols for Wake County courts, unless otherwise ordered by the Full Commission. For the current protocols, go to <https://www.nccourts.gov/locations/wake-county>.

Additionally, the Full Commission will follow the COVID-19 CDC and NCDHHS safety protocols, whichever are more restrictive, regarding masks following a known exposure to COVID-19 and/or a positive COVID-19 test.