



Georgia State-wide Business Court

Guidelines for In-Person Proceedings

Revised March 1, 2022

The Georgia State-wide Business Court (the “Court”) is committed to providing the just, speedy, and efficient disposition of cases while ensuring the safety of all participants. The following Guidelines for In-Person Proceedings (“Guidelines”) were established to ensure the safety of all who attend in-person proceedings before the Court.

I. Public Access to the Nathan Deal Judicial Center

The following safety protocols have been established for visitors entering the Nathan Deal Judicial Center (“NDJC”).

- *Face Masks.* Visitors entering the NDJC or visiting the common areas of the NDJC generally are not required to wear a mask or socially distance, but may choose to do so.

In accordance with CDC and DPH guidance, visitors must wear an appropriate mask following quarantine or isolation due to exposure to or infection by COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms. An appropriate mask is an N95 or KN95 mask, or a disposable surgical mask covered by a cloth mask, that fits well and is covering the nose and mouth.

Visitors must also wear an appropriate mask and comply with social distancing requirements where indicated by signs in any judicial chambers, court office, or other specified area in the NDJC.

- *Sanitizing public areas.* The Courtroom and conference rooms will be sanitized before and after each proceeding. Additionally, the GBA will fog (sanitize) public areas in the NDJC on a regular basis and as needed.
- *Air Quality.* The NDJC has a state-of-the-art HVAC system, including an air purification system that uses UV light to reduce mold, bacteria, fungi, and associated toxins that can enter the air stream.



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II. Conference Space

- The Court will make available conference space to provide litigants and their lawyers the ability to meet privately to continue preparations for hearings and trial.
- Conference spaces will be disinfected before and after use, and hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be located in each conference space.

III. In-Person Oral Argument and Other Proceedings

- The Court will implement additional safety protocols as appropriate for each case and in-person proceeding.
- The Court will consider requests for remote proceedings upon joint request of the parties.

IV. Physical Preparations

- Where applicable, signage is displayed informing occupants of any social distancing requirements, limitations on the capacity of elevators, and the maximum capacity of other spaces.
- No-touch hand sanitizer stations are provided in public spaces throughout the NDJC.
- Disposable face masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes are available to any attendee of proceedings before the Court and are located in the vestibule outside the Courtroom on the Third Floor.