

THE BRIEF

MAY 2021

An electronic update for the legal community providing a brief look at news in Eau Claire County Courts

COVID-19 and the Eau Claire County Circuit Courts Status Update

Provided by Presiding Judge Schumacher

On April 9, 2021, an [Order](#) was entered reinstating the operational plan for safe resumption of in-person and jury trials. While there is no longer a prohibition against jury trials and in-person hearings, this does not mean an immediate end to remote (Zoom) hearings. The following highlights the current plans:

- Jury trials scheduled in May and after will go forward.
- Matters already scheduled after June 1 to be by Zoom, will still be by Zoom.
- Hearings scheduled after June 1 will be in-person, unless there is an agreement to do remotely.
- For the most part, the Eau Claire County Judges are willing to hold hearings by Zoom on request.
- Some matters are well suited to remote hearings and others are not.
- Criminal intake at 9:30 and 11:00 will continue to be by Zoom for now because of the large number of people involved.
- Some hybrid hearings will be permitted at the discretion of the court where some participants will be in-person and others will appear remotely.
- As always, we will continue to monitor the health of the community.

Courtroom Decorum and Reminders

As in-person hearings and jury trials resume, please familiarize yourself with the Rules of Decorum as outlined in [Local Court Rule 203](#) (applies to in person and Zoom appearances) which states in part:

- 203.06 Lawyers and court officers shall, while in court, be attired in such a manner as not to lessen the dignity of the court or of proceedings in the eyes of the jury and public.
- 203.07 Lawyers shall advise their clients and witnesses of the formalities of court, and seek their full cooperation. It is expected that lawyers will guide clients and witnesses as to appropriate attire.

As a reminder to everyone visiting the second floor of the courthouse, the security screening station continues to be fully operational.

Conference rooms are now open and contain disinfectant spray and wipes for your use when you're done with the room.