

Chief Justice Martha L. Walters [has](#) imposed significant additional restrictions on court trials, hearings and court operations to limit the number of people coming into Oregon courtrooms and courthouses. These strict restrictions will help slow the spread of the COVID virus and minimize health risks to those who work or enter our courthouses. The restrictions will be in place until at least Friday, March 27, and may be extended or revised as circumstances warrant.

“The nature of this public health emergency has led me to order the postponement of most trials and court hearings,” Walter said. “The guidelines that were issued just last Friday no longer reflect the recommendations from the Centers on Disease Control and changing circumstances here in Oregon. We will do our best to provide people their day in court when we can safely do so, and we will pursue options for continuing our work without requiring in-person appearances, but, at the present time, limiting the number of people coming into our courtrooms and courthouses is paramount.”

Today’s Chief Justice Order:

- Postpones, with limited exceptions, jury trials and other trials and hearings scheduled to start between Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 27. Some courts will implement the postponements as early as tomorrow. Jury trials that can be completed before March 19 will continue.
- The limited exceptions include proceedings involving people in jail with a legal right to a speedy trial, civil commitment hearings, and certain protective order, family law, guardianship, and treatment court proceedings.
- Bans in-state and out-of-state work-related travel and bans internal meetings of five or more people. Larger meetings will be conducted remotely or re-scheduled.
- Presiding judges in each county will decide which judges and court staff need to work at the courthouse or remotely from home.
- Presiding judges in each county will work with the public safety community to ensure that they consider how best to address health issues of those who are incarcerated and how to keep jail populations at a minimum.

Trial courts throughout Oregon already are postponing trials and reducing the number of people summoned as jurors.

The Oregon Court of Appeals has cancelled oral arguments scheduled between March 17 and March 27.

During the time these restrictions are in effect, the courts will continue to consider how they can meet the needs of Oregonians while doing their part to preserve and protect their health.