

UPDATING THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE
RECOVERY AND RE-ENTRY PROCESS
12-22-2020

New Courthouse Information

The Johnson County Courthouse in Olathe is moving and all court offices—including remote hearings—will be **closed on Thursday, December 31, 2020 and Friday, January 1, 2021** while offices of the 10th Judicial District prepare to move to the new courthouse.

The courthouse at 100 N. Kansas Ave., Olathe will be permanently closed as of December 31, 2020.

The new courthouse, located at 150 West Santa Fe Street, Olathe KS 66061 will accept mail starting December 31, 2021.

We will remain in remote-only operations until further notice, even after the new courthouse opening on January 4, 2021. We are on stand-by to return to in-person hearings and services when the public health conditions in Johnson County and the metro area warrant the phased return of limited operations at the courthouse. We will open when we are reasonably able to ensure the safety of our staff, the attorneys and litigants required to appear and all members of the public.

Due to our ability to provide hearings for approximately 98% of all cases via videoconference, our court has conducted over 60,000 hearings since March. The Johnson County Court continues to conduct hearings of every case type except jury trials.

We continue to plan for the first quarter of 2021 and beyond. We understand that our operations impact at least 7,500 people each week and we take our responsibility to all of you seriously. Please note, no matter when we return to Phase II in-person processes, we will provide at least two weeks' notice.

We are ready and able to resume in-person services as soon as it is recommended by local health authorities. The recommendation is contingent on a significant reduction in new COVID-19 incidents in the local community, vaccination availability levels, and an overall downward trend in exposures. In October, Johnson County had positivity rates of 5.5% and incidence rates of around 250. Today's positivity rate is above 13%, with an incidence rate above 800.

As you are aware, vaccinations are beginning to be distributed across the United States. As with all other states, Kansas has a vaccination plan. No significant drop in COVID-19 cases is expected until the state is well into Phase II of the COVID-19 Vaccination Plan. Phase II will be met when there are large numbers of vaccination doses available and inoculation is available for the general population. Now that there is a vaccine, its community prevalence becomes a factor in our re-opening plan.