

**STATEMENT FROM THE COUNTY COURT
OF LAUDERDALE COUNTY**

Attorneys,

I hope this email finds you all in good health and spirits. As you are certainly aware, we are currently dealing with a worldwide pandemic and it is imperative that everyone makes decisions which will slow the spread of COVID-19.

In accordance with Mississippi Supreme Court Emergency Administrative Order - 5 and the Order from Lauderdale Board of Supervisors (see attached) in an abundance of caution, Lauderdale County Court is adjusting our procedures to ensure the safety of our staff, the legal community, as well as the citizens we serve. These adjustments are being implemented immediately and will continue until further notice.

Henceforth, any scheduled hearings will be handled via video/telephone conference when at all possible. The Court will be utilizing the website freeconferencecall.com. In order for this to work, you will need to download the free application to your choice of device. It may be installed on computers, laptops, tablets, and cell phones. You will receive an invitation from the Court Administrator providing you with a telephone number, access code, and instructions to call in at the time your hearing is scheduled. If you are unable to appear before the Court via video conference, please contact the Court Administrator so we may make arrangements to host you onsite. We ask that you give the Court Administrator a 24-hour notice if you will need to appear before the Court in person. Should you desire to appear in person, please note you will be subjected to a medical screening and required to fill out a medical questionnaire (see attached). If you cannot appear in person or via videoconference, or should you desire to have your case continued, please advise the Court as soon as possible.

These changes will not affect the manner in which motions or other court documents will be filed. Court Clerks will be on the premises during working hours to accept any filings.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this challenging time. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

-Heather A. Miles

Heather A. Miles
Lauderdale County Court Administrator
Phone: (601)482-9756
hmiles@lauderdalecounty.org

EMERGENCY SCREENING ORDER

In accordance with the Proclamations and Declarations of Emergency issued by this Board, the Governor of the State of Mississippi and the President of the United States due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the health, safety and security of the public and staff of Lauderdale County Buildings, the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. This Order shall be effective for the Lauderdale County Courthouse, the Lauderdale County Annex building and the Lauderdale County Youth Court building effective at 8:00 a.m. on Monday March 23, 2020.
2. Elected officials are encouraged to operate their offices with minimum essential staffing. Elected officials are encouraged to take advantage of on-line resources in the operations of their offices.
3. There shall be only one entrance to each of these buildings for all personnel including the public and building staff. The entrance to the Lauderdale County Courthouse shall be the West entrance (Constitution Avenue). The entrance to the Lauderdale County Courthouse Annex shall be the West entrance (Constitution Avenue). The entrance to the Youth Court shall be the front entrance.
4. Under Mississippi Constitution, Article 3, § 24 as confirmed by Mississippi Supreme Court administrative orders, the courts of this County must and shall remain open.
5. This Order is not intended to conflict with or otherwise infringe upon any administrative order issued by any of the Courts of Lauderdale County (including but not limited to Circuit Court and Chancery Court) about the ongoing operations of their respective courts.
6. The Board President, County Administrator and Board Attorney shall develop appropriate screening questions for medical personnel to ask of all persons seeking to enter these County Buildings. A notice of the screening questions shall be posted at the entrance to each of these buildings and on Lauderdale County's website.
7. All persons (including building staff to include elected officials) seeking to enter these County buildings shall first be screened by on-site medical personnel. Following screening, medical personnel shall perform a temperature assessment of each person seeking to enter these County buildings. Persons who have an elevated temperature consistent with CDC guidelines, a positive questionnaire screening, or refuse screening shall not be permitted to enter the building; medical personnel will request that the person

leave the premises voluntarily so that hopefully the intervention of building security will be unnecessary.

8. Telephone numbers for the court administrators and the court clerks for the court divisions of the Circuit Court, Chancery Court, County Court, and Justice Court shall be posted at the entrance to each of these County buildings for any person who needs to contact the Courts or Court Clerks to address concerns about the person's inability to enter the building.

9. Medical personnel shall request the assistance of building security (including law enforcement staff if necessary) to request removal of individuals that have an elevated temperature, a positive questionnaire screening, or refuse screening, and who do not voluntarily depart the premises.

10. This is an evolving situation and extraordinary times. The Board shall continuously evaluate the terms of this Order. When this Board is not in session, the Board President, after consultation with the County Administrator and the Board Attorney, shall have the authority to modify the terms of this Order (as well as the contents of screening questions) to help ensure the health, safety and protection of the public as well as of the various staff and officials who work in Lauderdale County's buildings.

SO ORDERED this the 20th day of March, 2020.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY:

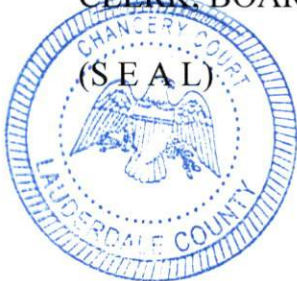


Kyle Rutledge, President

ATTEST:



CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



NOTICE
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)
SCREENING QUESTIONS

YOU MUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ENTRY INTO THIS BUILDING.

IF YOU REFUSE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS, YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THIS BUILDING.

1. In the last 14 days have you visited Malaysia, China, Iran, South Korea, any European country, or any other high-risk country identified by the CDC?
2. In the last 14 days have you resided with or been in close contact with someone who has been in any of those countries within the previous 14 days?
3. In the last 14 days have you traveled on a cruise ship?
4. In the last 14 days have you traveled domestically within the United States where COVID-19 has sustained widespread community transmission?
5. Have you been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency?
6. Have you been diagnosed with or have you had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19?
7. In the last 14 days have you had difficulty breathing or had shortness of breath?
8. In the last 14 days have you persistent pain or pressure in your chest?
9. In the last 14 days have you had new confusion or inability to wake up without assistance?
10. In the last 14 days have you had bluish lips or a bluish face?
11. Do you have a fever, cough or shortness of breath?

You will be screened for fever through use of a digital forehead thermometer and/or ear thermometer. If you have a fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, you will not be permitted to enter this building.

SO ORDERED, this this 20th day of March, 2020,

Kyle Rutledge, President
Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors