For Immediate Release

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

Roger A.G. Sharpe, Clerk

46 East Ohio Street

Room 105

Indianapolis, IN 46204

**U.S. District Court Releases Video on Jury Service During COVID Pandemic**

Indianapolis, Indiana – August 26, 2020: Jury duty can induce anxiety even during normal times, but in the midst of a global pandemic, people who receive a summons for federal jury service may have more concerns than usual. In order to allay any worries, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana today posted a [video detailing the steps the Court is taking to help protect jurors](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ROwMqint4Q) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The video, featuring Chief Judge Jane E. Magnus-Stinson, provides jurors with an overview of what to expect from the moment they arrive at the courthouse through the conclusion of their service. The Court has a robust plan in place and is following guidelines put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as local and state health officials. Some preventive measures the Court is taking include:

* requiring everyone who enters the courthouse to wear a face covering, unless a valid medical excuse is presented or a judge orders otherwise;
* requiring social distancing of at least 6 feet throughout the courthouse, courtrooms, and jury rooms. Plexiglass barriers have been installed in the few spaces where social distancing is not possible;
* requiring all visitors to answer health screening questions before being allowed to enter a courthouse;
* conducting enhanced cleaning in all public spaces at least once per day. In between enhanced cleaning sessions, court staff will disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

The Court is taking numerous other steps designed to protect jurors, including only starting one jury trial per day and limiting onsite court personnel to just those necessary to maintain court operations. Jurors will receive a packet containing hand sanitizer and other materials when they check in. Jurors are also required take their temperature and do a health self-check before leaving home each day of their jury service. Many other precautions are detailed in the video.

Jurors wishing to obtain more information about the steps the Court is taking to protect them can be found at <https://www.insd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-juror-info>.