



Dear LACCRA Members:

NOTE: As this update was being written, Judge Kevin C. Brazile published additional orders extending and detailing the Court's limited operations through to April 16, 2020, and Blanca Carvajal, Administrator, has sent an email with additional details directed at court reporters. We expect there to be more information and additional changes and details in the coming hours, days, and weeks.

Answers to previous conference call questions sent via email to SEIU 721 just before conference call began:

Courthouse/Courtroom access

The Court will post a notification related to Coronavirus/COVID-19 Announcement at all courthouse entries, March 17, 2020, which advises persons that are feeling ill and experiencing any flu-like symptoms, have a fever, are coughing or sneezing should not enter a Courthouse/Courtroom.

Disaster Service Worker

Pursuant to CA Government Code Section 3100-3109, Court employees are considered disaster service workers. However, the Court has no plan at this time, to have Court employees work in the capacity as a disaster service worker. If this changes, the Court will advise the union.

Inglewood courthouse

Each employee has been given a hand sanitizer for their own use and Clorox wipes are available on both sides of the Clerk's office for general usage. Additionally, gloves are not being provided to all staff due to the number available; however, they may be available on a case by case basis.

Edit by LACCRA: During our conference call this morning, I asked specifically about hand sanitizer and wipes for "each employee" and indicated there were several Mosk court reporters without these supplies. It was clarified that priority was given to the employees that had regular and frequent direct contact with the public (termed "high-traffic" areas like the filing windows, etc.). Courtroom supplies are to be used by all courtroom staff and the hope is that each individual employee will be able to get their own supplies of this nature by the end of the month.

Among our Court Reporter Unit, it was requested that our floating reporters be prioritized for this future distribution of supplies due to their multiple exposures to various courthouses/courtrooms.

3/17/2020 COVID-19 Update Conference Call:

- An FAQ is being worked on for distribution ASAP
- The list of courtrooms identified to handle the essential/emergency matters has not yet been released to management. Once they receive that information, they will set to work on identifying which court reporters will be required to stay to cover those matters.

The initial thought is that if there's a court reporter already assigned to a specific courtroom that is ID'd handling essential/emergency matters, that reporter will be expected to come to work. If there is no assigned reporter, the Assignment Office will assign a floater as they normally would, utilizing a RAF whose HQ is in that building, etc.

- Decision has not yet been made if volunteers will be allowed. If they are allowed, it's not yet decided if there would be some type of additional compensation given (i.e. overtime or Holiday pay accrued). "Everything is on the table, but no decisions have yet been made."
- Regarding telework for court reporters - Legally/statutorily, only very specific case types and court locations are allowed to conduct court matters telephonically, the court must adhere to those limitations unless instructed otherwise. It may be possible for a court reporter to be present at the courthouse/court room to report with the bench officer, but likely not from home without statutes being changed or temporarily suspended.
- Managers are being tasked with providing proper 6-ft social distancing in the various work spaces.
- Next COVID-19 conference call to be Thursday, 3/19/2020, time TBD

In Solidarity,
Your LACCRA Board of Directors