

U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review *Office of Policy* 5107 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, Virginia 22041

NOTICE

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EOIR to Resume Hearings in Non-Detained Cases at the Seattle Immigration Court

FALLS CHURCH, VA – On Oct. 13, 2020, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) will resume non-detained individual (merits) hearings and master calendar dockets involving relatively small numbers of respondents at the <u>Seattle Immigration Court</u>. Please continue to monitor EOIR's <u>operational status webpage</u> for updates. The immigration court will contact parties if the hearing date or time is changed.

All persons working in or visiting the common spaces of the immigration court – waiting rooms, corridors, courtrooms, and other spaces generally open to the public – are required to wear face coverings and should become familiar with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's information about COVID-19 <u>here</u>. Consistent with public health officials' guidance, EOIR has implemented practices to help protect all people working in and visiting EOIR spaces throughout the country. Please see the agency's <u>Notice</u> for more information. An exception to the face covering requirement will be made for children under two years of age and individuals with medical conditions that prevent them from wearing a face covering. Other requirements may apply, and persons with business before the immigration court should take care to check the each court's webpage prior to arrival. All visitors to the Seattle Immigration Court will be escorted from the lobby to EOIR space, regardless of whether the visit is for proceedings (e.g., filing at the window). Please obey all official signs posted in the building and in EOIR space.

Any person with business before the immigration court who is experiencing symptoms of coronavirus, has been diagnosed with the virus (even if asymptomatic), or who has otherwise been exposed to the virus within the last 14 days will not be permitted to enter EOIR space. With as much notice as practicable, represented respondents should call their attorney or representative to provide notice of their inability to access court space for the applicable reason. Attorneys, representatives, and unrepresented respondents should call the immigration court with as much notice as possible.

Please also note that the option to file by email at the Seattle Immigration Court will end on Dec. 12, 2020. Emails sent to the court after that date will not be accepted and will be deleted without review.

Contact information for immigration courts nationwide is available on EOIR's website.