

STATE OF ALABAMA )

JEFFERSON COUNTY )

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 12, 2020

**COVID-19 UPDATED RESPONSE PLAN FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTS**

The goal of this response plan is to institute a protocol to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the Jefferson County Courts. This plan is based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC has announced that containment of the virus is no longer possible and that community spread is occurring. The plan may be updated as new information is disseminated.

Effective March 16, 2020, the following persons shall not enter any courtroom in Jefferson County, Alabama:

Persons who have been in any of the following countries within the last fourteen (14) days:  
CHINA, SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN, ITALY, IRAN (This list may be updated.);

Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has been in one of the countries listed above within the last fourteen (14) days;

Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;

Persons who have been diagnosed with or have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Anyone attempting entry in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by Courthouse Security Personnel.

Any person who has a hearing, trial or other appearance scheduled but is unable to appear because of the restrictions above should do as follows:

- 1- If represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney.
- 2- If you are an attorney or *Pro Se* party and you are scheduled to appear in Court, please contact the Judge's chambers. Contact Information for the Birmingham Division can be found at [jefferson.alacourt.gov](http://jefferson.alacourt.gov)
- 3- Birmingham Division jury trials previously scheduled for **March 30, 2020 and April 13, 2020** are SUSPENDED. If you are a juror in the Birmingham Division, please contact Court Administration at (205) 325-5063 and (205) 325-5064.
- 4- If you are a Grand Juror in the Birmingham Division, please contact (205) 325-5255.
- 5- For any matter not listed above in the Birmingham Division, you may contact the Clerk of Court at (205) 325-5355.
- 6- Bessemer Division jury trials previously scheduled for **March 16, 2020, April 6, 2020 and April 13, 2020** are SUSPENDED. If you are a juror or Grand Juror in the Bessemer Division or for additional information, please contact the Bessemer Deputy Circuit Clerk of Court at (205) 497-8510.

These restrictions shall remain in place until modified by Order of the Presiding Judge of this Circuit.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ELISABETH A. FRENCH**  
**PRESIDING JUDGE**