

Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans

State of Louisiana

ORDER REGARDING COVID-19 CLOSURE - August 11, 2021

Acting in accordance with Louisiana Constitution Article V, Section 1; pursuant to La. R.S. 1:55; and the inherent power of this Court, and considering the recent surge of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Delta Variant in Louisiana, and, further, in consideration of public health recommendations to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease while balancing the need to maintain access to Louisiana courts, the Chief Judge, acting on behalf of the Judges of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans,

HEREBY ORDERS THAT:

The Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans is closed through Wednesday, August 25, 2021, and will:

- 1. Suspend the requirement to report to the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans throughout the Court's closure;**
- 2. Reset all trials and hearings scheduled during the Court's closure, with all defendants to receive new notices via U.S. Mail;**
- 3. Continue to conduct first appearances for all inmates via video conferencing relative to probable cause determinations, bail settings, and other first appearance settings;**
- 4. Continue Web and Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) capabilities, payments for which can be made by visiting our website at www.nola.gov/traffic-court/or by calling 504-658-8500; and**
- 5. Not issue any attachments or suspend driver's licenses for matters set during the Court's closure.**

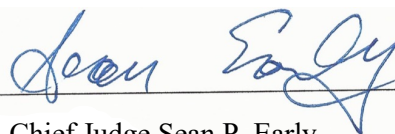
The Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans will reopen at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021, and in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines as follows:

- 1. Individuals seeking entry into the courthouse will be pre-screened. Pre-screening shall include taking of temperatures by a medical professional.**
- 2. All individuals entering the courthouse shall be required to wear a mask which covers the nose and mouth. Those who report without a mask will be provided a mask while supplies last.**
- 3. Hallways and corridors shall be clear and are to be used for access only. Social distancing shall be observed.**
- 4. Criminal matters involving incarcerated defendants shall continue to proceed via video conference.**

This Order will remain in effect until further notice. If the conditions indicate that the Court needs to adjust the above policy, notice will be posted on the Court's website (<http://www.nola.gov/traffic-court/>), the Louisiana Supreme Court website (www.lasc.org), and in the news media.

New Orleans, Louisiana this 11th day of August, 2021

For the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans,



Chief Judge Sean P. Early