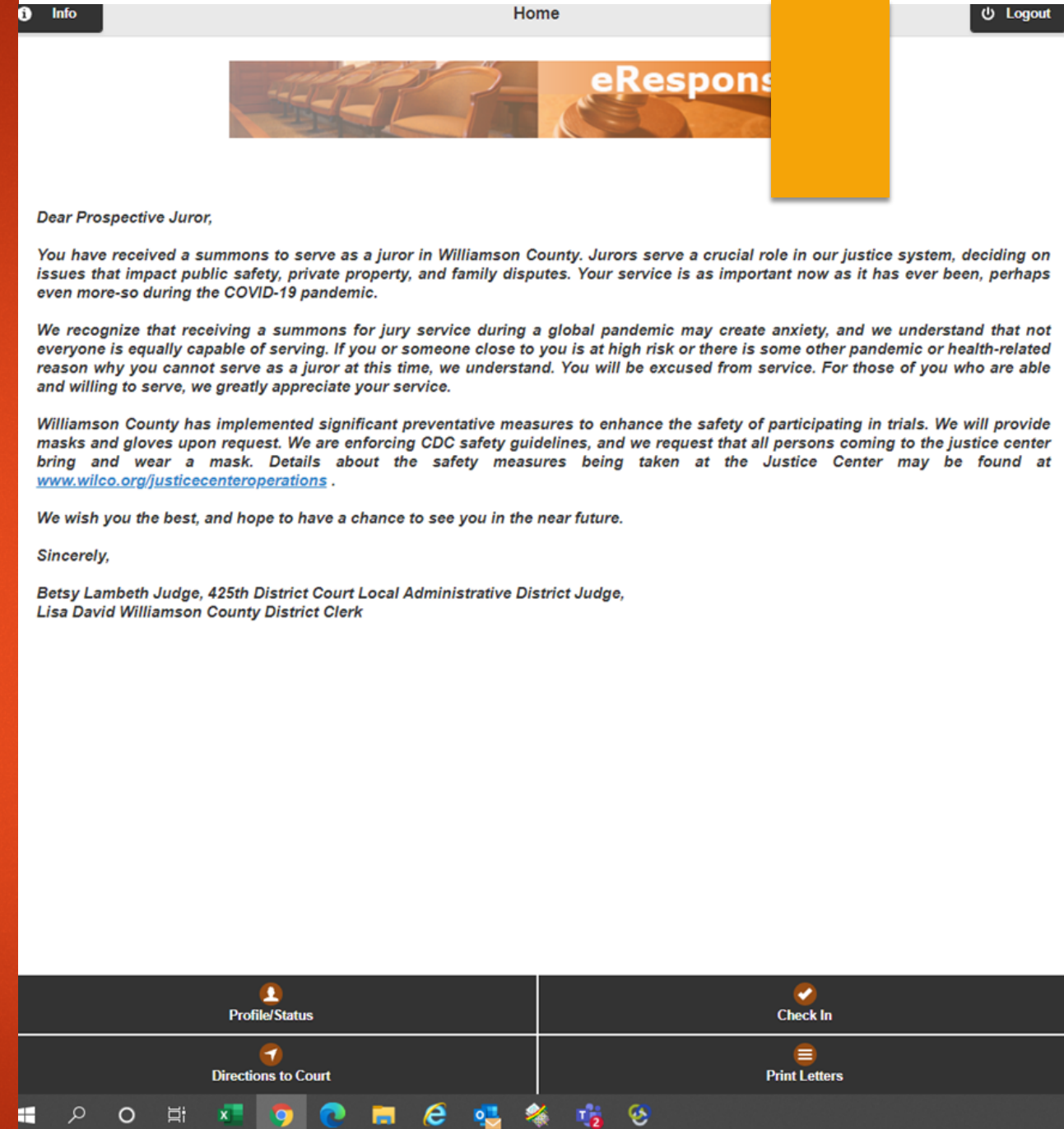


One County's Experience with Jury Trials During COVID

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Key to Successful Jury Trials

- ▶ “Rebuilding” of the Jury Process
- ▶ Consultation
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Flexibility



Consultation



THE LOCAL HEALTH
AUTHORITY, OUR NEW BFF



STAKEHOLDERS



PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

Communication

- ▶ Plans, revised plans, and more revised plans
- ▶ Talking to Venirepersons and Jurors
- ▶ A ‘final pretrial’ that is more than just motions

Second Revised COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Williamson County Justice Center

Third Revised COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Williamson County Justice Center

Fourth Revised COVID-19 Operating Plan for the Williamson County Justice Center

Attachment A

Jury Trial Plan

Jury Trial Schedule

Judges have adopted the below Jury Trial Rotation Schedule. It is designed to allow for social distancing. Judges may trade trial weeks as needed for the orderly management of their dockets. This schedule will be revisited in December 2021 to determine whether it remains necessary but is provided through May 2022 for . . .

| August |
|-----------------------------------|
| 8/2/21: 277th 425th CCL3 |
| 8/9/21: 368th CCL1 CCL4 |
| 8/16/21: No Trial |

Specific Health Precautions Related to Jury Proceedings

- All health precautions included in the Operating Plan apply to Jury Proceedings.
- Parties, counsel, and trial participants required to self-monitor COVID symptoms and exposure, and to communicate any COVID exposure or symptoms to the Court. Individuals who are not able to participate in a jury proceeding due to display of COVID-symptoms, exposure, or positive test may participate via remote technology, if permissible.
- If, during a Jury Proceeding, a participant tests positive for COVID or reports a COVID-19 exposure, the Judge presiding over the trial should consult with the Local Health Authority and notify the Local Administrative District Judge and the Director of District Court Administration to coordinate in-depth facility cleaning.

Jury Selection

- Jury Selection for District Court felony cases will take place at the Georgetown Annex 2nd Floor Training Room on the Friday before the trial week.
- Jury Selection for District Court civil and family cases will take place at the Williamson County Justice Center in the Jury Impaneling Room on Monday morning.
- Jury Selection for County Court at Law cases will take place at the Williamson County Justice Center in the Jury Impaneling Room or in a courtroom on Monday.

Flexibility

- ▶ Within the building
- ▶ With the other County stakeholders
- ▶ With the bar

The Outcome

