

AMENDED
Emergency Pandemic Protocols
UPDATES FEBRUARY 25, 2021
Lake Superior Court, Criminal Division

Based upon the pandemic metrics issued by the Indiana State Department of Health, as of February 22, 2021, Lake County is still in the Yellow Zone. Therefore, effective March 1, 2021, the Court is modifying the Pandemic Protocols as follows:

1. Jury trials will resume.
2. The court calls will no longer be held remotely, but will take place in the courtrooms, with all parties appearing in person. **Despite the fact that hearings will be conducted in-person, plea agreements are still required to be e-filed.** The in-person calls will be held at 8:00 a.m. in Courtroom I **for defendants who are in custody, and 8:30 for defendants who are on bond;** 8:30 in Courtroom II; and 8:45 in Courtrooms III and IV. Defendants will be transported from the jail to the courtrooms for these hearings. HOWEVER, defendants (both those in custody and those on bond) should only appear in court for hearings of substance (i.e. bond reductions, change of plea hearings, sentencing hearings, setting of trial dates, etc.). ***Defendants should NOT appear in court simply to have the hearings reset. Resets must be sought by motion, filed no later than 24 hours in advance.***
3. In-custody Initial Hearings, in-custody hearings on probation revocations and petitions to expel will continue to be held remotely, via zoom. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Initial Hearings for defendant's who are on bond will occur in-person at 8:30 a.m. in the Magistrate's Courtroom, with the in-custody hearings beginning immediately thereafter. On Tuesdays and Thursdays hearings on petitions to revoke probation and petitions to expel will begin at 8:30 a.m. for the in-custody defendants, with probation revocation hearings for the defendants who are not in custody beginning at the conclusion of the in-custody hearing. ***Again, defendants should NOT appear in court simply to have the hearings reset. Resets must be sought by motion, filed no later than 24 hours in advance. The motion must indicate whether the probation officer opposes the continuance.***
4. The public will be permitted in the courtroom, but only at 50% capacity, on a first come, first served basis. Once 50% capacity is reached, the bailiffs will prohibit anyone else from entering. Social distancing and face coverings will continue to be required in the courthouse, both in the courtrooms and in the adjacent hallways.