

“What is Denton Law Firm doing in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19)?”

Like all other businesses, Denton Law Firm has been monitoring, thinking about and reacting to the coronavirus. We would like to provide our clients, trusted partners and friends some information about the steps we are taking to protect the health of all and to help stop the spread. As of this writing, all our attorneys and staff are all healthy, and we continue to operate within our office spaces. However, the old “business as usual” has changed, and we are planning and preparing for it to change further.

Early last week, our entire team met to discuss, plan and test our ability to 100% remotely work from home. On Saturday morning, March 14, we had our first drill for 100% of our employees to work from home. On Monday, we addressed the gaps and deficiencies found in our business continuity plan and others found during our drill. We met again this week. Yesterday, March 18, we conducted our second drill and we saw dramatic improvement. In the event our entire office staff is required to work from home, we can now state that we have that capability. It will not be without challenges, but we are better prepared today than we were last week.

Meanwhile, within our office, “business as usual” continues to change. A large part of this is due to the closure or restricted activities of federal courts, state courts, circuit and district court clerks’ offices, county court clerks’ offices, administrative agencies such as the Social Security Administration and other private partners. Another large part is our efforts to protect ourselves and in turn our families, friends and clients. We have long embraced the “if you are sick, stay home” guidance. Our office is a collegial, chatty and friendly one. High fives were a norm. While we continue to watch out for one another, high fives have been discontinued and replaced with waves or elbow bumps. Social distancing, increased washing of the hands, hand sanitizer and cleaning and disinfecting work spaces are now part of “business as usual.” Doubling down, our offices were professionally sanitized two days ago. We must admit that we are struggling with the communal coffee pot and touching that common surface. (We like our coffee). We are also fortunate that almost all of our employees work within private offices with a door. Our open door policy is becoming a closed door necessity. For better or worse, we do not have the open offices concept and those concerns that exist within some offices. Travel has already been restricted. We are also taking other steps, but we cannot list everything.

However, as we have all have been encouraged, we can do more. Beginning Monday, March 23 until further notice, we will be allowing entry to our offices by appointment only. Internally, we are going to limit meetings to small groups and continue to follow CDC guidance on social distancing strategies. And we are prepared to take further steps as needed, warranted or directed.

Finally, please know that we remain accessible by phone, e-mail, text, fax or instant messaging. Our office is currently swamped with coronavirus issues pertaining to CDC guidance, closure and cancellation issues, employment law issues, force majeure contractual provisions, company policies, board meeting issues and business finance issues. This is just to name a few. We continue to monitor several pieces of federal and state legislative efforts to help with the implications of the coronavirus. One example is the Family First Coronavirus Response Act in Washington.

We hope this communication answers the question of “what is Denton Law Firm doing in response to the coronavirus?” We also hope that you will not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of service in any way.