

Eloy Immigration Court Temporary Closure

On May 31, 2016, the Eloy Immigration Court temporarily suspended hearings following confirmation by the Arizona Department of Health Services of a measles outbreak in certain areas within the Eloy Detention Center, and based upon the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) subsequent decision to limit visitation at the detention center in which the immigration court is located.

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has received questions from the public regarding the measles outbreak and the operational status of the Eloy Immigration Court. EOIR is working with federal and state partners to ensure the safety of the public and employees at the immigration court at Eloy.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: When is the Eloy Immigration Court expected to reopen?

Due to the identification of new measles cases since the initial posting of these FAQs, July 18, 2016, is the first date the Eloy Detention Center anticipates receiving new intakes and lifting the current restrictions. As posted at www.ICE.gov, "visitation at the Eloy Detention Center will operate on a modified schedule following guidance from the Arizona Department of Health Services. This modified schedule is subject to change while ICE continues to work closely with state and county health authorities to monitor measles at the Center." Should the situation at Eloy undergo further changes, EOIR may again adjust its operations.

Q: How is the Eloy Immigration Court communicating with attorneys regarding reset hearings and cancellations?

The Eloy Immigration Court is aware that most attorneys have chosen to wait until all of the restrictions are lifted before visiting clients. Notices of case cancellations are being sent out by staff in other EOIR locations. Similarly, notices of reset cases may be distributed in advance of the formal reopening of the court; however, attorneys may use the Automated Case Information Hotline (1-800-898-7180) to obtain case information. Attorneys should not call other EOIR immigration court locations and ask to speak with Eloy staffers to inquire as to Eloy court procedures or request case information concerning Eloy cases. General questions related to this matter may be directed to EOIR's Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs at 703-305-0289 or PAO.EOIR@USDOJ.GOV.

Q: Where can I go to get updates on these and any new measles cases at the Eloy Detention Center?

Any information on new or existing measles cases will be provided by the Arizona Department of Health Services: <http://azdhs.gov/director/public-information-office/index.php#news-release-061016> and the Department of Homeland Security: <https://www.ice.gov/detention-facility/eloy-detention-center>.

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Q: Are mail and other correspondence materials still able to be delivered to and sent from the Eloy Immigration Court during this closure?

The Eloy Immigration Court's mail continues to arrive at the facility, and court staff will process the accumulated mail when the court reopens. Notices of case cancellations are being sent out by staff in other EOIR locations.

Q: Will Eloy Immigration Court operations be 100 percent functional on the day the court is scheduled to reopen?

EOIR is planning to reopen the Eloy Immigration Court to handle only administrative matters in advance of resuming immigration court hearings. For example, if the court is able to open on July 18, 2016, the immigration court is not planning to schedule any hearings until late the following week to allow for immigration court staff to process mail and prepare files and for attorneys to conduct legal visits. EOIR will revisit this plan if the situation changes.

Until hearings resume, EOIR staff at the Eloy Immigration Court may not be available to answer the phones while they prepare to resume full operations. Please direct any questions to the Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs at 703-305-0289 or PAO.EOIR@usdoj.gov.

Q: If attorneys and representatives believe they do not have sufficient time to make arrangements to attend a rescheduled hearing, will they be afforded an opportunity to have their cases reset given the Eloy Immigration Court's closure?

As noted above, EOIR does not anticipate lifting the current restrictions at the Eloy Immigration Court until July 18, 2016, and plans to provide sufficient notice to attorneys and representatives, so the agency does not foresee any such conflicts. Should the July 18, 2016, date shift again, the immigration court will review any motions to continue consistent with applicable law. Eloy immigration judges are cognizant of the challenges attorneys face in preparing their cases and complying with court deadlines and will take the current situation into account when ruling on motions for continuances.