

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE: *
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT * MISC. NO. 00-308
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19 *

STANDING ORDER 2021-16

On December 22, 2021, this Court issued Standing Order 2021-15 which suspended certain Court operations and revised guidelines for persons who shall not enter the U.S. Courthouses or U.S. Probation Offices in this District without the express permission of the Chief Judge. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) subsequently issued additional guidance regarding isolation times for those persons who test positive for COVID-19 or are exposed to a person who tests positive for COVID-19 on December 27, 2021. *See* Ctrs. for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population (Dec. 27, 2021). Having discussed these developments with the Court’s consulting epidemiologist, the Court concludes that it is appropriate to modify certain portions of prior Standing Orders related to masking and entry into U.S. Courthouses and Probation Offices in this District. Accordingly, it is:

ORDERED, that in addition to the vaccination and testing mandates set forth in Standing Order 2021-10, the following persons shall not enter the U.S. Courthouses or U.S. Probation Offices within this District without the express permission of the Chief Judge:

- Unvaccinated persons who are unable to demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test within the preceding 48 hours;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional within the last 10 days unless they were diagnosed

more than 5 days previously; are fully vaccinated;¹ have been asymptomatic for the last 24 hours; and can demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test within the preceding 48 hours;

- Unvaccinated persons who have had contact in the last 10 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional, unless the diagnosis was more than 10 days ago, the person diagnosed has been symptom-free for the past 72 hours, and the person seeking to enter has tested negative within the past 48 hours and can demonstrate the same;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any physician, hospital, or health agency;
- Persons who have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher;
- Persons who have had fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 5 days, unless they have been asymptomatic for more than 24 hours; are fully vaccinated; and can demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test within the preceding 48 hours;
- Unvaccinated persons who reside with someone who has had fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea within the last 10 days, unless the symptomatic individual has been

¹ Persons are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 14 days after receiving the second shot of a two-dose vaccine or 14 days after receiving a single shot of a single-dose vaccine. The Court expects to update this definition in the near future to require persons to have received a “booster” shot, if medically eligible, in order to be considered “fully vaccinated.”

asymptomatic for the preceding 72 hours, and the person seeking to enter has received a negative test within the past 48 hours and can demonstrate the same;

- Unvaccinated persons who have returned from international travel or a cruise ship voyage within the past 10 days; and
- Unvaccinated persons who have been released from a federal, state or local jail, prison, or other correctional institution within the last 10 days, except those who are reporting to be fit with a location monitoring device or as otherwise ordered by the Court;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that these entry restrictions shall not apply to persons exempted from the vaccine and testing requirements of Standing Order 2021-10, namely criminal defendants, sitting and prospective Grand and Petit Jurors, and lay witnesses in criminal cases. Vaccination and testing requirements of those persons shall remain within the discretion of the judge presiding over the case in which those persons are involved;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that persons permitted under this Order to enter the Courthouse despite a recent positive diagnosis or contact are required to wear a face covering or mask, which must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth,² at **all** times for 10 days following such diagnosis or contact; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States Marshal, his Deputies, the Court Security Officers, or a designated contractor, shall enforce the terms of this Order and shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter in violation of this Order.

² Masks may not incorporate a one-way valve. Neither bandanas nor neck gaiters constitute appropriate masks under the terms of this Order.

Dated this 30th day of December, 2021

BY THE COURT:

/s/ JAMES K. BREDAR
James K. Bredar
Chief Judge