

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Pursuant to the five (5) separate Amended Administrative Orders dated May 24, 2021 by the Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, it is this 27th day of May, 2021, by the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland,

ORDERED, effective June 1, 2021, that:

1. No person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19, or who has not been fully vaccinated, is aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, and is within the quarantine period, may enter the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland.

2. No person who has been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local health department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine may enter the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland during the quarantine period.

3. To the extent that, during this emergency, any person who attempts to enter the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland, and appears to be ill with a respiratory illness, protocols developed as part of the extant Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) shall be employed to provide to that person, to the extent possible, the services needed without placing other court visitors and staff at risk.

4. Any such person and/or his or her attorney, if applicable, who has a scheduled proceeding, event, or services in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland must contact the appropriate office regarding his or her status.

5. Consistent with the recommendations of the CDC, MDH, and local health departments and subject to the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities (Eighth Administrative Order on COVID-19 Health Measures)*, filed on May 24, 2021, any person, including judiciary personnel regardless of vaccination status, who seeks entrance to the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland, shall be:

- (a) subject to COVID-19 screening questions,
- (b) subject to non-contact temperature checks,
- (c) if not fully vaccinated, required to wear face masks that cover the nose, mouth and chin completely, without vents, and
- (d) if not fully vaccinated, required to maintain social distancing.

6. Any person may be denied entrance to or required to leave the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland as a result of the screening process or, if not fully vaccinated, as a result of refusing to comply with the requirements to wear a face mask or maintain social distancing as required:

- (a) if, as a result of the screening process, such person shall be provided information regarding alternative means to address the purpose of that person's intended visit to the court, and

(b) if, as a result of refusing to comply with the requirements to wear a face mask, or maintain social distancing, such person shall be required to leave the courthouse facility.

7. Effective June 1, 2021, pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, during the emergency period, consistent with Section (a) of the *Eighth Administrative Order on COVID-19 Health Measures*, the wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, judiciary personnel, and any other persons who have completed the vaccination process.

8. Due to the impracticability of enforcing measures with jury pools, social distancing of six feet or more and the requirement to wear face masks shall continue to apply to jury pools until further notice.

9. The wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, judicial personnel and any other persons who have completed the vaccination process. All judges, judiciary personnel, and any other persons over the age of two (2) years, who have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process, SHALL wear face masks in the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland, which completely cover the nose, mouth and chin, without vents.

10. Barriers, including clear personal barrier shields, are not a substitute for and shall not fulfill the masking requirement of this Order.

11. To achieve social distancing for large congregate settings, the Administrative Judge of this Court, the Clerk of this Court, and the Administrator

of this Court, shall inform individuals seeking access to the courthouse that access to courtrooms and other court spaces may be limited on an intermittent basis.

12. This Order applies to all persons entering the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland including judges, courthouse staff, attorneys, litigants, and members of the public. A violation of these provisions by judges is subject to judicial discipline proceedings. A violation of these provisions by courthouse staff is subject to employee discipline proceedings. A violation of these provisions by attorneys, litigants and members of the public is subject to enforcement by contempt of court.

So **ORDERED** this 27th day of May, 2021.

Daniel P. Dwyer
Administrative Judge

RECEIVED

MAY 27 2021

KEVIN R. TUCKER, CLERK
Entered By _____
cc: Minutes and Proceedings