

Notice Regarding the Court of Appeals of Maryland December 2021 Oral Argument Session

Masks are required to be worn by everyone attending the Court of Appeals of Maryland's December 2021 oral argument session, including by counsel while presenting oral argument. Under the current administrative order clarifying COVID-19 health measures,¹ if the Court determines that Anne Arundel County's transmission status has been deemed "moderate" or "low" per the CDC transition status map² for fourteen consecutive calendar days, masks will be voluntary for judges, Judiciary personnel, and any other persons who are fully vaccinated.

Arguing counsel shall complete the Court of Appeals Health Screening Questionnaire Form prior to attending oral argument. Arguing counsel must submit proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of counsel's appearance. The questionnaire is available here: <https://mdcourts.gov/coappeals/healthscreeningform>

Persons shall not attend oral argument if they:

Are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 (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).

Have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days or are currently awaiting the results of a test, have been directed to isolate by a medical professional, or have had close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

Arguing counsel shall notify the Clerk of the Court, Suzanne Johnson (410-260-1500 or coaclerkofthecourt@mdcourts.gov), if they display any symptoms of COVID-19 or test positive for COVID-19 within 7 days after oral argument.

¹ See [Ninth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities](#).

² See <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>. As of October 26, 2021, "high" is red; "substantial" is orange; "moderate" is yellow; and "low" is blue on the CDC county transmission rate map.

The gallery will be closed to the public. Judges, court personnel, and attorneys presenting oral argument are permitted to be in the courtroom. Arguing counsel will be admitted to the courtroom five minutes before the oral argument in their case is scheduled to begin and must exit the courtroom at the conclusion of the argument. The Court will webcast live oral arguments.

After each oral argument, the Court will recess for 5 minutes to allow for counsel to exit, for staff to sanitize common touch points, including the podiums located on each counsel table, and for new counsel to enter the courtroom.

Attorneys presenting oral argument may request to appear remotely. The request must be made at least 10 days prior to oral argument by emailing the Clerk of the Court, Suzanne Johnson, coaclerkofthecourt@mdcourts.gov. An attorney is not required to disclose a reason for the request.