

Notice Regarding the Court of Appeals of Maryland March 7 and 8, 2022 Oral Arguments

Under the [4th Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency](#), which takes effect on March 7, 2022, pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, Judiciary personnel, and any other persons who have been fully vaccinated as defined by the Centers for Disease Control.

Arguing counsel who are fully vaccinated and want to elect not to wear a face mask during oral argument shall complete the Court of Appeals Health Screening Questionnaire Form prior to attending oral argument. Arguing counsel must submit proof of vaccination within 72 hours of counsel's appearance. The questionnaire is available here: <https://mdcourts.gov/coappeals/healthscreeningform>

Arguing counsel who are not fully vaccinated must wear face masks at all times in the Courts of Appeals Building. In addition, arguing counsel who are not fully vaccinated shall complete the Court of Appeals Health Screening Questionnaire Form prior to attending oral argument and must submit a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of counsel's appearance.

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 been diagnosed with and remain ill with COVID-19, or have not been fully vaccinated and are aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19 and are within the applicable quarantine period.

Have been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local health department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine.

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.

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 5 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.