

**In the Circuit Court of Maryland  
For Somerset County**

**Administrative Order  
2020-08**

**WHEREAS, The Maryland Judiciary has been operating under a Phase I emergency protocol due to the COVID-19 Pandemic since March 16, 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera issued an Administrative Order on May 22, 2020 which set forth a multi-phase reopening of the Maryland Courts, culminating in a full resumption of normal court activities and operations on October 5, 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly contagious viral disease, with an alarming death rate, that continues to persist in the human population at this time and is expected to so persist for the foreseeable future; and**

**WHEREAS, the Maryland Judiciary in general and the Circuit Court for Somerset County in particular, endeavor to continue to protect the health of those who work and conduct business within the Somerset County Circuit Courthouse; and**

**WHEREAS, it is sound hygienic practice to prevent those who may be carrying the COVID-19 virus from entering the Somerset County Circuit Courthouse;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105, this 5th day of June, 2020, as follows:**

- 1. Consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control, the Maryland Department of Health, the Somerset County Health Department and the Administrative Orders of Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, any person, entering through the front entrance to the Somerset County Circuit Courthouse (hereinafter the “Courthouse”) shall be:**
  - A. Subject to COVID-19 screening questions;**
  - B. Subject to non-contact temperature checks;**
  - C. Required to wear face masks or coverings intended for disease control;**
  - D. Required to maintain social distancing of no less than 6 feet;**
  - E. Only counsel, litigants, and necessary subpoenaed witnesses will be allowed admittance for court cases; and**
- 2. Any person may be denied entrance to or be required to leave the Courthouse as a result of the screening process, refusing to comply with the requirements of screening, refusal to wear a face mask or covering or to maintain social distancing; and**
- 3. In the event a person is denied entrance or required to leave the Courthouse pursuant to this Order, they shall be given instructions or information regarding alternative means to address the purpose of that person’s intended visit to the court; and**
- 4. The undersigned Administrative Judge shall exercise his authority to limit the number of people in the Courthouse and its various rooms and hallways at any particular time, in accordance with social distancing regulations and protocols; and**

5. **The undersigned Administrative Judge shall further exercise his authority to establish pedestrian traffic patterns within the Courthouse to maximize social distancing; and**
6. **This Administrative Order shall be enforced by the Somerset County Sheriff's deputies assigned to the Courthouse as well as through any other lawful enforcement measure, including contempt proceedings; and**
7. **This Administrative Order shall remain in effect through October 4, 2020 and is subject to extension if circumstances require; and**
8. **This Order may be supplemented or modified as conditions may warrant.**

---

**Daniel W. Powell,  
Administrative Judge**

*6/5/2020*

---

**Date**