



Pamila J. Brown
Administrative Judge

DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
District Ten

District Court/Multi-Service Center
3451 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 480-7706
TTY: (410) 480-7702

IN THE TENTH DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR HOWARD COUNTY

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – OPERATIONS DISTRICT TEN

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Court of Appeals March 1, 2022, FIFTH AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EXPANDING STATEWIDE JUDICIARY OPERATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY, the Judiciary moves to PHASE V of operations but recognizes the increasing need for additional health measures; and

WHEREAS, The Court recognizes the concerns of all Court customers, and that safety is of the utmost importance and COVID-19 conditions are unique to each community and subject to change; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) have issued revised protocols on February 25, 2022 regarding the wearing of masks and many local jurisdictions, including Howard County, have emerged from health mandates related to the surge in COVID-19 infections due to the Omicron variant; and

WHEREAS, The *Fifth Amended Administrative Order* provides that no person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19, or who has not been fully vaccinated and is aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, or who has been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local health department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine may enter a Judicial Branch facility during their applicable quarantine period; and

WHEREAS, The *Fifth Amended Administrative Order* provides that the administrative judges of the Circuit Court and the District Court located in each County or Baltimore City shall determine together whether they will require social distancing or other health measures consistent with local conditions and pursuant to appropriate public health guidance and shall so advise the public and the members of the bar by way of administrative order to be effective March 7, 2022; and

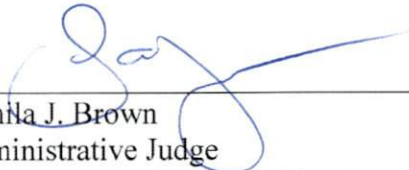
WHEREAS, Pursuant to the authority of the Court of Appeals, Maryland courts are permitted to provide services and conduct court proceedings remotely or in-person; and

Pursuant to the authority found in Maryland Courts and Judicial Proceedings Code Ann., Section 1-607, and to ensure the administration, operation, and maintenance of District Ten it is this 4 **March 2022**, Therefore; it is hereby;

ORDERED, that the following health measures shall be implemented in the District Court of Maryland for Howard County, effective March 7, 2022:

- (a) Face masks shall no longer be required, but are optional, for judges, Judiciary personnel and any other persons entering courthouses and Judiciary facilities; and
- (b) Persons who are symptomatic, or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within 5 days prior and is not vaccinated, should not enter the courthouse.
For these three situations, where a continuance in scheduled proceedings is being requested, a written motion shall be filed unless it is impracticable to do so. In ruling on such a motion, the presiding judicial officer may: (i) require reasonable proof of such condition before granting a continuance; and (ii) where appropriate, require such individual to participate in the scheduled hearing via remote means in lieu of a continuance; and
- (c) Each judge shall have discretion to manage courtroom seating and courtroom capacity as appropriate; and
- (d) Health screenings, including initial screening questionnaire and the no-contact temperature check, shall be discontinued; and
- (e) All physical barriers shall be kept in place.

3/4/2022
March 4, 2022



Pamela J. Brown
Administrative Judge
District Court of Maryland for Carroll County