



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR BALTIMORE CITY (DISTRICT 1)

Administrative Order No. 2021-02

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”), and the Baltimore City Health Department (“BCHD”), an emergency exists;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland, declared a State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergencies related to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, ongoing vaccination efforts coupled with falling infection rates have prompted the CDC to issue relaxed health protocols for those individuals whom have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process, allowing for the progression to more robust levels of operation;

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland, effective July 1, 2021, has lifted the public health measures enacted in response to the COVID-19 emergency;

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore, effective July 1, 2021, has lifted the public health measures enacted in response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, although vaccination efforts have significantly reduced infection rates, the continuation of certain health measures remain necessary in order to protect the health and safety and mitigate potential exposure to persons visiting and personnel of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City, especially for those who have not completed the vaccination process.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the *Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* and the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities*, issued on May 24, 2021, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, the undersigned having conferred with the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court of Baltimore City

to require additional mandatory health measures consistent with those mandatory health measures and pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b), it is this 24th day of June, 2021 hereby:

ORDERED that, all persons who have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process shall be required to wear a face mask which covers the nose, mouth, and chin completely without vents at all times, including during in-person court proceedings, while within the Civil Court Building, 501 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (“Civil”), the Eastside Court Building, 1400 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21213 (“Eastside”), the John R. Hargrove, Sr. District Court Building, 700 East Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21225 (“Hargrove”), the Edward F. Borgerding Court Building, 5800 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 (“Wabash”), and the Shillman Building, 500 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (“Shillman”) (collectively, the “Courthouses”); and it is further

ORDERED that, consistent with the *Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* and the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities*, issued on May 24, 2021, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, effective July 1, 2021, while within the Courthouses, the wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, Judiciary personnel, and all other persons who have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; and it is further

ORDERED that, a judge presiding over a courtroom proceeding may require a participant to use a clear mask or wear a personal barrier shield in lieu of a mask for a limited duration to ensure that the participant can be heard or observed, with due consideration given to social distancing and other public health guidelines; and it is further

ORDERED that, while within the Courthouses, those persons who have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process may, with an appropriate social distance, lower their face masks to eat, drink, or take oral or nasal medications, but shall appropriately reattach their face masks upon completion; and it is further

ORDERED that, where Court staff are assigned to single-occupancy enclosed offices, those persons who have not yet completed the COVID-19 vaccination process may remove their face mask when alone and the door is closed, but their face mask shall be appropriately reattached if any other person enters the office or the occupant leaves the office; and it is further

ORDERED that, where Court staff are assigned to common area workspaces, including cubicles, face masks shall be worn by those who have not yet completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; and it is further

ORDERED that, consistent with the *Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* and the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities*, issued on May 24, 2021, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, effective July 1, 2021, social distancing of no less than three (3) feet shall be required for all persons in large congregate settings such as courtrooms; and it is further

ORDERED that, no person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19, or who has not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process, is aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, and is within the quarantine period, shall enter the Courthouses; and it is further

ORDERED that, no person who has been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine shall enter the Courthouses during the quarantine period; and it is further

ORDERED that, any person, including Judiciary personnel, who seeks entrance to the Courthouses and other judicial facilities shall be:

- (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions,
- (2) if not fully vaccinated, subject to non-contact temperature checks,
- (3) if not fully vaccinated, required to wear a face mask that covers the nose, mouth, and chin completely, without vents, and
- (4) if not fully vaccinated, required to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more;

and it is further

ORDERED that, any person may be denied entrance to or required to leave the Courthouses 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; and it is further

ORDERED that the Bailiffs employed by the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City are authorized to deny admission or remove from the Courthouses and its facilities any person who does not comply with this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that to the extent that any term within a prior local administrative order for this Court conflicts with this Order, this Order shall prevail.

This Order may be revised by the undersigned as circumstances warrant.

/S/

Halee F. Weinstein, Administrative Judge
District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City

CC:

Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, District Court of Maryland
Judges of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City and staff
Senior Judges for District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Hon. Audrey J.S. Carrión, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Mary Abrams, Clerk, District Court for Baltimore City
Linda Lewis, Administrative Commissioner, District Court for Baltimore City
Angela Oetting, Esq., Office of the Public Defender
Paul O'Connor, Esq. Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City
Maryland Legal Aid
Bradley Tanner, Office of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs
Terri Charles, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs
Bar Association of Baltimore City
Maryland State Bar Association
Monumental City Bar Association
Women's Bar Association
The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys
LGBTQ Bar Association
Women's Law Center
Maryland Hispanic Bar Association
Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society
South Asian Bar Association
Maryland Criminal Defense Bar
Maryland Association for Justice
Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc.