

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

**Administrative Order  
2020-03**

**WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the Novel Coronavirus, more particularly identified as COVID-19, a pandemic; and**

**WHEREAS, Governor Larry Hogan has elevated Maryland's emergency status to its highest level and issued a series of Executive Orders requiring only essential State employees to report to work, closing non-essential businesses, limiting the gathering of people, including in State buildings, and greatly limiting travel within the State; and**

**WHEREAS, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera has issued a series of Administrative Orders which address court operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and**

**WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a highly communicable viral disease which has an alarming hospitalization and death rate; and**

**WHEREAS, the Maryland Judicial Council was briefed about COVID-19 by Secretary Robert Neall of the Maryland Department of Health on March 11, 2020; and**

**WHEREAS, Secretary Neall reported that the only known control measure for COVID-19 is "social distancing", which means to limit close contact between humans to the extent possible to prevent exposure to the virus; and**

**WHEREAS, this Court has a duty to protect both court staff and the general public from the spread and effects of COVID-19;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105, this 15th day of April, 2020, as follows:**

- 1. Restrictions regarding access to the Circuit Court for Dorchester County as set forth in this Court's Administrative Order 2020-02, dated March 12, 2020, and as generally required by the related Administrative Orders of Chief Judge Barbera, are hereby incorporated by reference and remain in full force and effect in the Dorchester County Circuit Court; and**
- 2. All individuals, without exception, while traveling within the public and common areas of the Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse, including courtrooms, shall wear a mask or mask-like face covering; and**
- 3. All individuals who work within the Courthouse and are entering an area or office of others, shall wear a mask or mask-like face covering; and**
- 4. Individuals who are asymptomatic, while working alone or not sharing a work space closer than that recommended by controlling health authorities, may remove their mask or mask-like face covering IF permitted by the Administrative Judge, Clerk of Court or Register of Wills, as appropriate; and**
- 5. Under no circumstances is a staff member or member of the public permitted in the Dorchester County Courthouse if they have any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 or have had contact with another in the previous 14 days who has had any such symptoms; and**

6. This Order shall remain in effect until lifted by a subsequent Order; and
7. That Sheriff's Deputies assigned to The Dorchester County Circuit Courthouse are directed and empowered to enforce this Order; and
8. Violation of this Order is punishable by Contempt or any other sanction available; and
9. The requirements of this Order are subject to the future order of this Court; and
10. This Order is effective immediately.

  
Brett W. Wilson, Administrative  
Judge

4/15/20 @ 1:45 PM  
Date/Time