

**The Circuit Court for Dorchester County
State of Maryland**

Administrative Order
2021-09

WHEREAS, Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the Administrative Head of the Judicial Branch of Maryland, entered five Orders on May 24, 2021, to be effective June 1, 2021, establishing the current policies and procedures with regard to the Judiciary response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, said Administrative Orders are consistent with the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH); and

WHEREAS, said Administrative Order regarding judiciary operations gives discretion to the County Administrative Judge to implement COVID-19 protocols as circumstances in his or her jurisdiction may require;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED this 27TH day of MAY, 2021 by the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland as follows:

1. No person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19, or who has not been fully vaccinated, is aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, and is within the quarantine period, may enter the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Courthouse; and
2. No person who has been advised by a doctor, hospital or local health department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine may enter the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Courthouse during the quarantine period; and

3. To the extent that, any person who attempts to enter the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Courthouse and appears to be ill with a respiratory illness, protocols developed as part of an existing Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) shall be employed to provide to that person, to the extent possible, the services needed without placing the other court visitors and staff at risk; and
4. Any such person and/or his or her attorney, if applicable, who has a scheduled proceeding, event or services in the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Courthouse must contact the appropriate office regarding his or her status; and
5. Consistent with the recommendations of the CDC, MDH and the Dorchester County Health Department and subject to the Administrative Orders of the Chief Judge of Maryland entered May 24, 2021, any person, including Judiciary personnel regardless of vaccination status, who seeks entrance into the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Courthouse shall be:
 - a. Subject to COVID-19 screening questions;
 - b. Subject to non-contact temperature checks if available;
 - c. If not fully vaccinated, required to wear face masks that cover the nose, mouth and chin completely, without vents; and
 - d. If not fully vaccinated, required to maintain social distancing; and
6. Any person may be denied entrance to or required to leave the Circuit Court for Dorchester County Courthouse, 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 distance as required:

- a. If, as a result of the screening process is denied entry, such person shall be provided information regarding alternative means to address the purpose of that person's intended visit to the court, and
 - b. If, as a result of refusing to comply with the requirements to wear a face mask or maintain social distance, such person shall be required to leave the courthouse or facility; and
7. Effective June 1, 2021, pending further order of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for Maryland, or the Administrative Judge of Dorchester County, during the continuing COVID-19 emergency period, the wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges, court personnel, any other persons who have completed the vaccination process, except that the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Dorchester County may require additional mandatory health measures consistent with those mandatory health measures adopted by Dorchester County; and
8. Effective June 1, 2021, unless determined by the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Dorchester County to be necessary in a large congregate setting, such as a jury pool, social distancing of six feet or more shall not be required for those persons who have been fully vaccinated or those who identify as being part of a social "pod" or cohort; however, social distancing will not be a substitute for the masking requirement for those who have not been fully vaccinated; and
9. To achieve social distancing for large congregate settings, the Administrative Judge for Dorchester County may limit, temporarily, the number of people entering the Dorchester County Courthouse or a particular courtroom or other public area of that

Courthouse to the extent necessary to achieve the requirements of social distancing;
and

10. That the undersigned Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Dorchester County grants the discretion and authority to the Clerk of the Circuit Court to implement the policies and procedures set forth above consistent with the status of her staff with respect to having been vaccinated or not; and
11. That the undersigned Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Dorchester County grants the discretion and authority to the Register of Wills to implement the policies and procedures set forth above consistent with the status of her staff with respect to having been vaccinated or not; and
12. That the undersigned Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Dorchester County grants the discretion and authority to the On-Site Supervisor of Sheriff's Deputies to implement the policies and procedures set forth above consistent with the status of his staff with respect to having been vaccinated or not; and
13. A copy of this Administrative Order shall be distributed to Amy J. Craig, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Dorchester County, Maryland; Terri Wheatley, Register of Wills of the Orphan's Court for Dorchester County, Maryland; and Cpl. Jake Todd, Dorchester County Sheriff's Department.

5.27.21
Date

JUDGE BRETT W. WILSON
Circuit Administrative Judge

cc: Suzanne C. Johnson, Clerk of Court of Appeals
Amy J. Craig, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Dorchester County
Orphan's Court for Dorchester County
Deputy Jake Todd, Courthouse Security
Eddie Collison
Lori Turner
William Nichols, Jr.
Staff, Judge's Chambers, Circuit Court Dorchester County