

IN RE: COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS * IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
ORDER # 2020-1 * FOR WORCESTER COUNTY
* STATE OF MARYLAND
*

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF COURT

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Maryland has declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, and has implemented a stay-at-home order of indefinite duration; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities have advised taking precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease; and

ORDERED by the Circuit Court for Worcester County that no members of the public, other than litigants with a scheduled proceeding, counsel of record, investigators or employees of counsel, and credentialed press, may enter any Worcester County Circuit Court without prior permission from the Administrative Judge or the Court Administrator. Members of the public will retain access to drop boxes at the entrance of each courthouse to deposit papers between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and it is further

ORDERED that, in addition to the above restrictions, the following persons shall not enter the courthouse:

- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and have not been advised to discontinue isolation by any physician, hospital, or health agency;

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Return to: Michael Howard, Court Administrator

- Person who have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any physician, hospital, or health agency;
- Persons with apparent signs or symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell; and it is further

ORDERED that all courthouse visitors shall be subject to health screening, including temperature screening, as appropriate to determine if any are exhibiting apparent symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell; and it is further

ORDERED that if you are scheduled or required to appear at the Worcester County Circuit Court, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions in this Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact that chambers directly;
- For self-represented litigants, please contact the Clerk's Office at (410) 632-5500;
- If you are a juror, please contact the Jury Department at (410) 632-5674;


FURTHER ORDERED by the Worcester County Circuit Court, effective immediately, all persons seeking entry to, or occupying, the Worcester County Circuit Court must wear a face covering or mask ("the mask"). The mask must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth at all times. If the wearer is a court employee who is in a workspace which permits at least six feet

of physical distance from another person, the wearer may temporarily remove the mask. In the Courtroom, the presiding judge may authorize temporary removal to facilitate communication provided appropriate physical distancing exists. Any visitor seeking entry to the courthouse without a mask will be provided a mask by the Court, if available. If the Court is unable to provide a mask for any reason, the visitor will be asked to contact, by telephone, the office to be visited to explore alternatives to entering the courthouse; and it is further

ORDERED that the Worcester County Sheriff, his deputies and Court bailiffs shall enforce this Order. Failure to abide by this Order may result in denial of access to or removal from the courthouse and contempt of Court.

ORDERED that these restrictions will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them.

Signed this 26th day of May, 2020.



BRIAN D. SHOCKLEY
Administrative Judge