

IN RE: RESUMPTION OF PHASE V- * IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
EXPANDING JUDICIAL OPERATIONS * WORCESTER COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER #2022-4 * STATE OF MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF COURT

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty’s *Fifth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency*, and the *Sixth Amended Administrative Order on Lifting the Statewide Suspension of Jury Trials and Maintaining Grand Juries*, dated March 1, 2022, Maryland Courts will move to Phase V on March 7, 2022. The policies and procedures set forth in this order are effective March 7, 2022 and apply to the Circuit Court for Worcester County and all court facilities, including the Snow Hill Volunteer Firehouse.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is, this 4th day of March 2022, by the Circuit Court for Worcester County, Maryland, ORDERED:

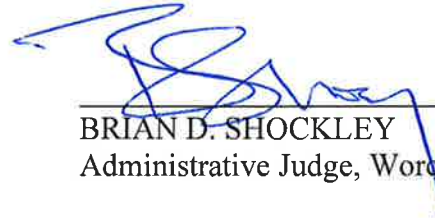
- (a) The Courthouse will remain open to the public during normal business hours.
- (b) COVID screening will no longer be conducted upon entry to the Courthouse, provided however, that those individuals meeting the following criteria shall not enter the Courthouse:
 - (1) Anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis who remains symptomatic or within the applicable quarantine period; or
 - (2) Anyone not fully vaccinated who was exposed to a person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis and who remains within the applicable quarantine period; or
 - (3) Anyone who has been advised or ordered by a doctor, hospital or local health department

to self-quarantine and remains within the applicable quarantine period.

- (c) When an individual meets the foregoing COVID-19 criteria and is, therefore, unable to access court facilities, any postponement request shall be in writing, unless it is impractical to do so. In ruling on such a motion, the presiding judicial officer may: (i) require reasonable proof of such condition before granting a postponement; and (ii) where appropriate, require such individual to participate in the scheduled hearing via remote means in lieu of a postponement.
- (d) Except as may be allowed by a Judge or Magistrate on the court's own initiative, or in response to a motion, all hearings, trials, and conferences (including civil and criminal pretrial conferences and status conferences) in all matters, including criminal, civil, family, guardianship, and juvenile matters, will be held **in-person** at the Courthouse. Motions for remote participation will be considered by the Court on a case-by-case basis.
- (e) Criminal and civil jury trials will resume on March 7, 2022.
 - (1) From March 7, 2022 until April 29, 2022, jury selection will be held at the Snow Hill Volunteer Fire Company, 4718 Snow Hill Road, Snow Hill, Maryland, 21863.
 - (2) Beginning May 2, 2022, jury selection and jury trials will be conducted at the Worcester County Circuit Courthouse, in the same manner as they had been conducted prior to COVID-19 emergency operations.
- (f) The wearing of face masks in the Courthouse is voluntary, pending further order of the this Court, and pursuant to local health department guidance.
- (g) Judiciary personnel who are unvaccinated are no longer required to provide weekly negative COVID-19 tests to report to work.
- (h) Judiciary personnel and visitors should continue to maintain social distancing (six feet or more from other individuals) whenever possible.

more from other individuals) whenever possible.

- (i) This Administrative Order will be revised as circumstances warrant.
- (j) Any local administrative order or provision of any such order that is inconsistent with the provisions herein is hereby rescinded.
- (k) To the extent that this Administrative Order conflicts with extant local administrative orders or policies, this Administrative Order shall prevail.
- (l) All extant Administrative Orders on the COVID - 19 Emergency shall remain in effect.



BRIAN D. SHOCKLEY
Administrative Judge, Worcester County