

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR CECIL COUNTY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER EXPANDING JUDICIARY OPERATION**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Maryland Constitution, Article IV, Section 18, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, as the administrative head of the Judicial Branch of the State, is granted authority including the closing and operation of courts and non-court judicial facilities; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 1000 of Title 16 of the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure sets forth the emergency powers of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals; and,

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, an emergency exists; and,

WHEREAS, *The Amended Administrative Order on the Progressive Resumption of Full Function of Judiciary Operations Previously Restricted Due to the COVID-19 Emergency*, filed June 3, 2020, provided for five phases of a progressive return to operations; and,

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to require the Judiciary to monitor the current phase of operations in the phased approach, moving toward full operational functions, while employing safety measures and monitoring local health conditions to continue to support the health and safety of Maryland residents and Judiciary personnel; and,

WHEREAS, infection rates have now fallen allowing the return to operations in Phase V; and,

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2022 the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals issued the *Fourth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-*

*19 Emergency* ordering that effective March 7, 2022, courts shall resume operations under Phase V, including jury trials; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above Order on February 22, 2022 the Administrative Judges of the Circuit Court and District Court for Cecil County consulted with Lauren Levy, Chief Health Officer for Cecil County, who confirmed that there are no local health mandates and to discuss health measures while moving toward full operational functions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Keith A. Baynes, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Cecil County, pursuant to the authority conferred by the above February 18, 2022 Order, do hereby order this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2022, effective March 7, 2022 as follows:

1. Effective March 7, 2022, the Circuit Court for Cecil County shall resume full operations under Phase V, including jury trials; and,
2. No person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19, or who has not been fully vaccinated and is aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19 and is within the applicable quarantine period, may enter the Courthouse; and,
3. No persons who have been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local health department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine may enter the Courthouse; and,
4. All persons entering the Courthouse shall be subject to a temperature screening and upon entry are certifying that they are not suffering from a fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, muscle or body aches, sudden loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, and/or nausea or vomiting; and,
5. The wearing of masks and social distancing shall be optional; and,

6. This Administrative Order shall be subject to further order of this Court as circumstances warrant.

February 23, 2022

Hon. Keith A. Baynes