

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 31 (2021)
GOVERNING COURTHOUSE ACCESS AND RESTRICTIONS
DURING COVID-19

WHEREAS, the situation with the coronavirus continues to require safety measures, with continuing adjustments, to reduce the risk of exposure for individuals entering the courthouse;

WHEREAS, a new series of Administrative Orders have been issued by Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera relative to such measures; and

WHEREAS, the most recent guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control, the Maryland Department of Health, and local health agencies, when deemed reasonable and appropriate by the Administrative Judge of this Court, will continue to be utilized;

WHEREAS, courthouse security personnel are authorized to screen individuals seeking to enter the courthouse and to refuse entry in various circumstances; and

WHEREAS, courthouse security personnel have been conducting thermal temperature checks for individuals entering the courthouse;

NOW THEREFORE, it is ORDERED as follows:

Entry to all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, is subject to COVID-19 screening questions and non-contact temperature check;

For individuals who are fully vaccinated, a mask or face-covering and social distancing are voluntary, except as indicated below and in any instances where the Administrative Judge of this Court, with regard to the courthouse generally, or the presiding judge in a courtroom specifically, determines that measures in addition to those contained herein are appropriate;

A mask or face-covering and social distancing are required for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, during any time that the “transmission status” reaches “substantial” or

“high,” per the CDC (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>) and for a 14-day “stabilizing period” thereafter, except in any instances where the presiding judge in a courtroom determines that modifications to this requirement are appropriate;

No person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19 or is aware of exposure to someone infected with COVID-19 and is still within the quarantine period may enter the courthouse;

No person advised or ordered by a medical or health professional to self-quarantine may enter the courthouse;

No person who appears to be ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may enter the courthouse;

The numbers of individuals permitted in the courtrooms and other areas of the courthouse will be monitored, regulated, and, when appropriate under the circumstances, limited by the judges and security personnel;

An inmate may not be transported to the courthouse if the inmate: (1) is in quarantine for COVID-19 within a prison or detention facility; (2) tests positive for COVID-19; (3) exhibits signs of illness; or (4) has a temperature greater than 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit;

All inmates transported to the courthouse are subject to temperature screening by a touchless thermometer;

Inmates shall wear face coverings during transport and while in the courthouse;

Inmates will be housed in lockups with proper social distancing, to the extent possible;

Court staff experiencing any sign or symptom of illness must stay home from work;

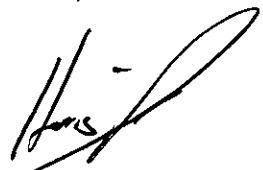
Court staff must wear face coverings and maintain social distancing in a manner consistent with this Administrative Order;

Any employee who tests positive for COVID-19, or who has been advised by medical personnel that he or she is presumptively positive, shall self-report immediately to his or her Administrative Head, self-quarantine, and not return to the courthouse until cleared by his or her Administrative Head;

Except as permitted by the most recent guidance of the CDC and state and local health departments, any employee who has been in contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, or who has been advised by medical personnel that he or she is presumptively positive, shall quarantine for 10 days or as otherwise directed by a County Health Officer.

8/9/21

Date



Administrative Judge

RECEIVED
CLERK, CIRCUIT COURT
2021 AUG -9 A 9: 21
KENT COUNTY