

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR ALL
CIVIL/CRIMINAL/JUVENILE CASES

Upon consideration of the Fourth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency entered by Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty on February 18, 2022 [hereinafter referred to as the "Chief Judge's Order"] which states that as of March 7, 2022:

All courts in the Maryland Judiciary, court offices, administrative offices, units of the Judiciary, the Offices of the Clerks' of the Circuit Court and the clerks' offices of the District Court shall resume full operations, including jury trials in criminal and civil case types in the Circuit Courts. To the extent that Phase V matters may be handled remotely, courts are encouraged to do so.

In jurisdictions with ongoing local health mandates, the Administrative Judges of the Circuit Court and the District Court located in each County or Baltimore City shall determine together whether they will require the wearing of masks, social distancing or other health measures and shall also advise the public and the members of the bar by way of Administrative Orders.

FURTHER

Whereas the COVID-19 testing positivity rate in Washington County has decreased significantly over the last several weeks from HIGH to MODERATE and continues to trend towards LOW, and

Whereas the Meritus Medical Center reports a substantial drop in hospitalizations due to the COVID-19 virus, and

Whereas the undersigned has consulted with the Washington County Health Department and the Administrative Judge of the District Courts for Frederick and Washington Counties.

Now, effective March 7, 2022, it is therefore on this 24th day of February, 2022, by the Circuit Court for Washington County, Maryland;

ORDERED, that the December 28, 2021 Administrative Order for Circuit Court of Washington County Maryland is hereby RESCINDED; and it is further

ORDERED, that as the Maryland Judiciary re-enters Phase V of the Phased Progressive Reopening Plan the Circuit Court for Washington County shall return to pre-COVID operations except as specifically stated herein, and it is further

ORDERED, that wearing face masks (especially surgical masks or better) remains recommended for all personnel and visitors but is no longer mandatory in the courthouse, EXCEPT, that due to the large number of people amassed in a single courtroom for an extended length of time during the jury selection process, face masks shall be worn by all persons in the designated courtroom until the jury is seated and the remaining jurors are dismissed; and it is further

ORDERED, that physical barriers installed to remediate transmission of COVID-19 may be removed, and it is further

ORDERED, that social distancing remains recommended whenever possible but is no longer mandatory within the courthouse, and it is further

ORDERED, that persons who are symptomatic, or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within 5 days prior, or who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 5 days prior and is not vaccinated, should not enter the courthouse. Clear signage shall be prominently displayed at the entrance to the courthouse with direction for any such person to remain outside and to call the number displayed, and it is further

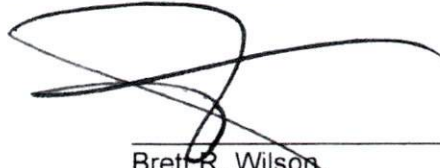
ORDERED, that general screening of persons entering the courthouse, to include touch free temperature taking, is suspended but that entrance security personnel shall inquire as to the health of any person displaying visible signs of illness, and it is further

ORDERED, that the use of remote hearings remains encouraged to the extent possible and at the discretion of the designated judge or magistrate. It shall be the responsibility of the judge and the judge's chambers to create and operate any digital platform necessary for the remote proceeding, except that any remote hearings in CINA proceedings shall be created and operated by the CINA coordinator, and it is further

ORDERED, that the Chief Judge's Order does not address the policy of weekly testing for unvaccinated personnel, and that policy will remain in effect until otherwise notified by the Chief Judge or the Administrative Office of the Courts, and it is further

ORDERED, that as we prepare to enter back into Phase V, all courthouse personnel are to return to work and are not to work remotely.

ALL PROVISIONS IN THIS ORDER ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION
AS CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE



Brett R. Wilson
Administrative Judge

Date: 02/24/2022

cc Honorable Eric Schaffer
Pamela Harris, State Court Administrator
Government Relations and Public Affairs
Kristin Grossnickle
Kevin Tucker
Capt. David Sanders
David Harbin, Esq.

RECEIVED

FEB 25 2021

KEVIN R. TUCKER, CLERK
Entered By _____
cc: Minutes and Proceedings