



DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
DISTRICT ELEVEN

WASHINGTON COUNTY
36 West Antietam Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
(240) 420-4600

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF COURT

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 clerks’ offices 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 members of the bar by way of Administrative Order.

FURTHER

WHEREAS the COVID-19 testing positive 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 Circuit Court for Washington County.

NOW, effective March 7, 2022, it is therefore on this 25th day of February, 2022, by the District Court for Washington County, Maryland;

ORDERED, that as the Maryland Judiciary re-enters Phase V of the Phased Progressive Reopening Plan the District 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, 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

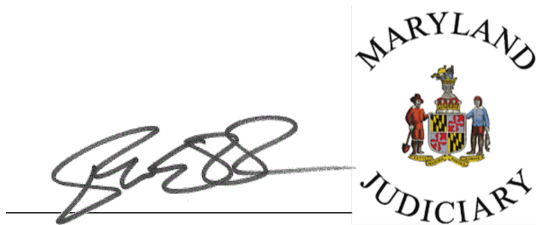
ORDERED, that general screening of persons entering the courthouse, to include touch-free temperature taking, is suspended but that entrance security personnel shall inquire as to the health of any person displaying visible signs of illness, and it is further

ORDERED, that the use of remote hearings remains encouraged to the extent possible and at the discretion of the judge, 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.

ALL PROVISIONS IN THIS ORDER ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS
CIRCUMSTANCES OR FURTHER ORDERS FROM THE CHIEF JUDGE OF
THE COURT OF APPEALS DICTATE.

SO ORDERED.



Hon. Eric W. Schaffer
District 11 Administrative Judge

cc: Honorable Brett R. Wilson
Pamela Harris, State Court Administrator
Government Relations and Public Affairs
Kimberly Hurd
Sara Snyder
Randy Rourke
David Harbin, Esq.