



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR BALTIMORE CITY (DISTRICT 1)

Administrative Order No. 2022-1

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 a continuing emergency exists;

WHEREAS, the emergency of the highly infectious Omicron variant in the latter part of 2021 necessitated a return to modified Phase III operations as directed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals;

WHEREAS, the administration of justice has been affected by the pandemic and will require ongoing professionalism, courtesy, and cooperation of the members of the bench and bar when navigating the changes to practices and procedures;

WHEREAS, positivity rates have now fallen, but the community transmission rate is high and the rate of full vaccination in Baltimore City is 63.5%;¹

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore, effective March 1, 2022, has lifted the indoor masking requirement; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the *Fifth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* issued on March 1, 2022, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, the undersigned having conferred with the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court of Baltimore City, it is this 3d day of March, 2022 hereby:

ORDERED that, effective **March 7, 2022**, the wearing of facemasks is voluntary for judges, Judiciary personnel, and any other person who have been fully vaccinated as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)² while within the Civil Court Building,

¹ The rate of vaccination is tracked and documented by the State of Maryland at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine> (last visited February 28, 2022).

² As of the date of this order, the CDC considers an individual fully vaccinated “2 weeks after final dose in primary series” for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines and “2 weeks after 1st dose” for the

501 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (“Civil”), the Eastside Court Building, 1400 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21213 (“Eastside”), the John R. Hargrove, Sr. District Court Building, 700 East Patapsco Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21225 (“Hargrove”), the Edward F. Borgerding Court Building, 5800 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 (“Wabash”), and the Shillman Building, 500 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (“Shillman”) (collectively, the “Courthouses”); and it is further

ORDERED that, all person who are not fully vaccinated shall be required to wear a face mask, which completely covers the nose, mouth, and chin, without vents, at all times, including during in-person proceedings while within the Courthouses; and it is further

ORDERED that, a judge presiding over a courtroom proceeding may require a participant to use a clear mask or wear a personal barrier shield in lieu of a mask for a limited duration to ensure that the participant can be heard or observed, with due consideration given to social distancing and other public health guidelines; and it is further

ORDERED that, while within the Courthouses, those persons who have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process may, with an appropriate social distance, lower their face masks to eat, drink, or take oral or nasal medications, but shall appropriately reaffix their face masks upon completion; and it is further

ORDERED that, where Court staff are assigned to single-occupancy enclosed offices, those persons who have not yet completed the COVID-19 vaccination process may remove their face mask when alone and the door is closed, but their face mask shall be appropriately reaffixed if any other person enters the office or the occupant leaves the office; and it is further

ORDERED that, where Court staff are assigned to common area workspaces, including cubicles, face masks shall be worn by those who have not yet completed the COVID-19 vaccination process; and it is further

ORDERED that, no person who has been diagnosed with and remains ill with COVID-19, or who has not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process, is aware of having been exposed to a person infected with COVID-19, and is within the quarantine period, shall enter the Courthouses; and it is further

Johnson & Johnson vaccine. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html> (last visited February 28, 2022).

ORDERED that, no person who has been advised by a doctor, hospital, or local department to self-quarantine or ordered to quarantine shall enter the Courthouses during the quarantine period; and it is further

ORDERED that, COVID-19 screening questions and non-contact temperature checks shall cease; and it is further

ORDERED that, social distancing requirements shall decrease from six (6) feet to three (3) feet; and it is further

ORDERED that the Bailiffs employed by the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City are authorized to deny admission or remove from the Courthouses and its facilities any person who does not comply with this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that, the Court will continue to advance matters at Civil in an effort to reduce backlogs, especially when previously scheduled matters are resolved, postponed, or otherwise removed from the docket; and it is further

ORDERED that to the extent that any term within a prior local administrative order for this Court conflicts with this Order, this Order shall prevail.

This Order may be revised by the undersigned as circumstances warrant.

/S/

Halee F. Weinstein, Administrative Judge
District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City

CC:

Chief Judge John P. Morrissey, District Court of Maryland
Judges of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City and staff
Senior Judges for District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City
Hon. Audrey J.S. Carrión, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Mary Abrams, Clerk, District Court for Baltimore City
Linda Lewis, Administrative Commissioner, District Court for Baltimore City
Angela Oetting, Esq., Office of the Public Defender
Noelle Newman, Esq. Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City
Maryland Legal Aid
Bradley Tanner, Office of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs
Terri Charles, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs

Bar Association of Baltimore City
Maryland State Bar Association
Monumental City Bar Association
Women's Bar Association
The Alliance of Black Women Attorneys
LGBTQ Bar Association
Women's Law Center
Maryland Hispanic Bar Association
Simon E. Sobeloff Law Society
South Asian Bar Association
Maryland Criminal Defense Bar
Maryland Association for Justice
Maryland Defense Counsel, Inc.