



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

Administrative Order No. 2021-01

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, and consistent with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”), and the Baltimore City Health Department (“BCHD”), an emergency exists;

WHEREAS, on March 5, 2020, Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland, declared a State of Emergency and Existence of Catastrophic Health Emergencies related to COVID-19 and has continually renewed that declaration as recently as May 12, 2021;

WHEREAS, ongoing vaccination efforts coupled with falling infection rates have prompted the CDC to issue relaxed health protocols for those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, allowing for the progression to more robust levels of operation;

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2021, Governor Hogan issued Order Number 21-05-14-01 amending the required use of face coverings in certain circumstances;

WHEREAS, as of May 14, 2021, the BCHD through its Commissioner of Health continues to require the wearing of face covering indoors at any location where members of the public are generally permitted;

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2021, the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals issued the *Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* and the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities*; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency continues to require measures to protect the health and safety of Maryland residents and personnel of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the *Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* and the *Eighth*

Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, requiring the cooperative determination by the respective administrative judges of the Circuit Court and District Court to require additional mandatory health measures consistent with those mandatory health measures adopted by the local jurisdiction and pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b), it is this 28th day of May, 2021 hereby:

ORDERED that, the undersigned having conferred with the Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and, together, determined to follow the current restrictions set forth by the BCHD on May 14, 2021, all individuals shall be required to wear a face mask which covers the nose, mouth, and chin completely without vents at all times, including during in-person court proceedings and for court related matters, while within the Civil Court Building, 501 East Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (“Civil”), and the Eastside Court Building, 1400 E. North Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21213 (“Eastside”); and it is further

ORDERED that all individuals shall be required to wear a face mask which covers the nose, mouth, and chin completely without vents at all times, including during in-person court proceedings and for court related matters, while within the John R. Hargrove, Sr. District Court Building, 700 East Patapsco Avenue., Baltimore, Maryland 21225 (“Hargrove”), and the Edward F. Borgerding Court Building, 5800 Wabash Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215 (“Wabash”), except for those employees and contractors of the Maryland Department of General Services (“DGS”), which maintains and operates these buildings, and any vendor or visitor conducting DGS business; 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, consistent with the *Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency* and the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities*, issued on May 24, 2021, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, effective June 1, 2021, social distancing of six (6) feet or more shall no longer be required for those persons

who have been fully vaccinated or those who identify as being part of a social “pod” or cohort; and it is further

ORDERED that, consistent with Second Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency and the Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities, issued on May 24, 2021, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, effective June 1, 2021, social distancing of six (6) feet or more shall be required for all persons in large congregate settings such as courtrooms; and it is further

ORDERED that, consistent with the recommendations of the CDC, MDH, and BCHD, and subject to the *Eighth Administrative Order Clarifying COVID-19 Health Measures in Courthouses and Judicial Branch Facilities* issued on May 24, 2021, by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, any person, including Judiciary personnel, regardless of vaccination status, who seeks entrance to the courthouses and other judicial facilities shall be:

- (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions,
- (2) subject to non-contact temperature checks,
- (3) required to wear a face mask that cover the nose, mouth, and chin completely, without vents, and
- (4) if not fully vaccinated, required to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more;

and it is further

ORDERED that face masks may be lowered to eat, drink, or take oral or nasal medications, but shall be reaffixed upon completion; and it is further

ORDERED that Court staff assigned to single-occupancy and enclosed offices may remove their face mask while alone in the office space with the door closed, but their face mask shall be reaffixed if any other person enters the office or the occupant leaves the office; 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; 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 shall no longer accept filings deposited in the physical drop-boxes located at Hargrove, Eastside, and Wabash, and said physical drop-boxes shall be removed

forthwith. The physical drop-boxes at Civil, however, will not be removed and will continue to accept filings.

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
Paul O'Connor, 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