

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA**

IN THE MATTER OF: COURT OPERATIONS)
UNDER THE EXGIENT CIRCUMSTANCES)
CREATED BY COVID-19 AND RELATED)
CORONAVIRUS (RE: FACE COVERINGS AND)
SOCIAL DISTANCING))

No. 21-mc-00001

**GENERAL ORDER/
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY
2021-21**

GENERAL ORDER

Due to the continued threat to public health and safety currently posed by COVID-19, as well as the related variants of the virus currently circulating in the United States, and the recent increase in cases nationally and locally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health and governmental authorities have advised individuals and entities to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, on July 27, 2021, the CDC recommended that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, wear face coverings in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts has strongly encouraged courts to follow this guidance.

Upon consideration of this public health guidance, the Facility Security Committees for the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Winfield K. Denton Federal Building and United States Courthouse, and the Terre Haute Federal Courthouse find that it is necessary to implement the below health and safety protocols. To the extent this Order differs from previous orders of the Court on this subject, this Order supersedes and replaces those Orders.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective Tuesday **August 3, 2021**, and until further order of the Court:

A. Face Coverings and Social Distancing

All persons entering any public space in all courthouses in the Southern District of Indiana are to wear face coverings in all public areas of these facilities, regardless of vaccination status. Further, all persons in any public space of these courthouses must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others whenever possible or unless social distancing cannot be accommodated due to operational necessity. Specifically,

1. All persons, regardless of vaccination status, seeking entry into any federal courthouse in the Southern District of Indiana must wear a face covering which completely covers the wearer's nose and mouth in all public spaces. An exception to this Order may be made for a person providing documentation that he or she is unable, for medical reasons, to wear a face covering.
2. Upon entering space belonging to a tenant agency in a federal courthouse, all persons, regardless of vaccination status, must comply with the rules and requirements of that tenant agency regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
3. Upon entering courtrooms, Judges' chambers and offices, or any space where a court proceeding is being conducted (including Naturalization ceremonies), all persons, regardless of vaccination status, must comply with the rules and requirements of the presiding Judge regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
4. All persons summoned for jury service and court staff interacting with such persons, regardless of vaccination status, must also wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing requirements while in rooms and public spaces designated for juror check-in, orientation, and related activities, unless social distancing cannot be accommodated due to operational necessity. Upon entering a courtroom, the rules and requirements of the presiding Judge take effect.
5. Any visitor seeking entry to a courthouse without a face covering will be offered a disposable mask free of charge at the security screening checkpoint if they have a need to and are otherwise permitted to enter the courthouse.
6. Any person seeking entry to a courthouse who refuses to wear a face covering will be denied entry to the courthouse.
7. Any person found to have violated this Order may be held in contempt of court, cited, and/or expelled from the courthouse.
8. This Order does not supersede any prior order of this Court concerning Court operations or public access to courthouses not related to face coverings or social distancing. Those orders remain in full force and effect.

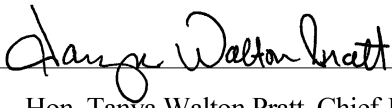
B. Health Screening Questions

Upon entry to a courthouse in the Southern District of Indiana, United States Marshals Service ("USMS") law enforcement personnel and USMS-Deputized contract Court Security Officers shall deny building access to individuals who may be infected with COVID-19 or otherwise appear to pose a public health risk. All persons seeking to enter courthouses within the Southern District of Indiana will be asked questions regarding symptoms and exposure to COVID-19. Persons who indicate they have symptoms or exposure to COVID-19 will be denied courthouse access. Those denied access will be provided information regarding the appropriate individual or entity to contact.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

For the Court,

Date: 8/2/2021



Hon. Tanya Walton Pratt, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Southern District of Indiana