

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**May 26, 2021**

**IN RE: CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY ORDER CONCERNING  
FACE MASKS/COVERINGS IN PUBLIC AREAS OF COURTHOUSES**

**AMENDED ORDER**

This Amended Order pertains to the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse located at 219 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL, and the Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse located at 327 S. Church Street, Rockford, IL. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public-health authorities have advised entities to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including recommending the use of face coverings or masks in public settings. In response to revised CDC guidance, the court hereby amends the order regarding face coverings as follows.

**Mask Requirements**

When required, as set forth in this order, a face covering or mask must always completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth.

Masks may be either manufactured or homemade and should be a solid piece of material without slits, exhalation valves, or punctures. A face shield and/or goggles may be used in addition to an acceptable mask, but a face shield (with or without goggles), bandana, or neck gaiter will not count as a face covering. A visitor who seeks entry into the courthouse without a mask will be offered a free disposable mask at the security screening station if they need to enter the courthouse.

The only exceptions to the mask requirement are for persons who provide documentation that they are unable for medical reasons to wear a face covering and those under two years of age.

**Members of the Public**

All persons seeking entry to or occupying the courthouses must wear a face covering or mask in the public areas of the courthouses. This includes the lobby, elevator banks, restrooms, public corridors, and, unless excused by the presiding judge, courtrooms.

**Employees**

Employees who have been fully vaccinated, as defined by the CDC, are not required to wear a face mask when in a non-public area of the building unless members of the public are also present. In all other situations, employees must wear face masks. As between fully vaccinated employees, no social-distancing requirement applies. When fully vaccinated and unvaccinated employees, or unvaccinated employees, are in the same workspace, they must maintain physical distance of at least six feet.

## **Litigants and Staff in Courtrooms**

In non-jury proceedings conducted in a courtroom, the presiding judge may allow individuals to remove their facemasks only if the judge has verified on the record that the individual is fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC. This can be accomplished, for example, by having counsel orally verify on the record that the particular individual (counsel, litigant, witness, paralegal, tech support, etc.) has been fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC. Courtroom deputy clerks and chambers staff will not be tasked with obtaining vaccination information from case participants or others in the courtroom; this is the responsibility of the presiding judge. If the judge has not been provided with on-the-record verification of a person's vaccination status, that person must remain masked and physically distanced at least six feet from others.

## **Jurors and Jury Trials**

All jurors and prospective jurors must wear a face mask except (at the discretion of the presiding judge) when responding to questions during the process of jury selection.

During a jury trial, all persons in the courtroom, other than witnesses while testifying, will be required to abide by the face mask requirements for jurors.

## **Penalty for Violations**

Any person found to have violated this Order may be held in contempt of court, cited, and/or expelled from the courthouses until an order of the Chief District Judge, upon petition, reinstates access to the courthouses.

This Order is in effect until further order of the Court.

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT:



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Rebecca R. Pallmeyer  
Chief Judge  
United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021