

**IN THE  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

**Administrative Order No. 2021-04**

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, and the Baltimore City Health Department, an emergency exists that poses a threat of harm to individuals in Maryland who seek to enter a court or judicial facility and come into contact with others; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency has continued, with public health strategies appearing to have been effective in reducing the transmission rate in Maryland and such restrictions gradually having been lessened, the resumption of certain judicial functions became possible, with the implementation of safeguards as advised by the CDC, the Maryland Department of Health, and the Baltimore City Health Department; and

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; and

WHEREAS, although vaccination efforts have made significant progress and infection rates have fallen, given the need for those who have not completed the vaccination process to continue to undertake health measures, continuation of the health measures remains necessary; and

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, as of May 14, 2021, the Baltimore City Health Department through its Commissioner of Health continues to require the wearing of face masks indoors at any location where members of the public are generally permitted;

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*, issued on May 24, 2021, 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 27th day of May, 2021 hereby:

**ORDERED** that, the undersigned having conferred with the Administrative Judge for the District Court for Baltimore City and, together, determined to follow the current restrictions set forth by the Baltimore City Health Department 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, while within the Mitchell Courthouse, 100 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, the Cummings Courthouse, 111 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, the Judiciary section of the Juvenile Justice Center, 300 North Gay Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202, or the section used to accommodate jury panels for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City located at the War Memorial Building, 101 North Gay Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, (collectively, the “courthouses”); and it is further

**ORDERED** that a judge or magistrate 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 jury pools; and it is further

**ORDERED** that, consistent with the recommendations of the CDC, Maryland Department of Health, and the Baltimore City Health Department, 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; 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 Baltimore City Sheriff's Office and its Deputies 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 local Administrative Order No. 2020-07, providing for the virtual filing of all motions and responses concerning discovery in civil/non-domestic and criminal matters, is hereby **RESCINDED** effective June 1, 2021; and it is further

**ORDERED** that the Court shall no longer accept filings deposited in the physical drop-boxes located at either of the Calvert Street entrance or the Fayette Street entrance to the Mitchell Courthouse, 100 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, and said physical drop-boxes shall be removed forthwith.

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

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/s/  
Audrey J.S. Carrión, Administrative Judge

## Circuit Court for Baltimore City

CC:

Judges and Magistrates of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and staff  
Senior Judges, Circuit Court for Baltimore City and staff  
Hon. Halee F. Weinstein, Administrative Judge for the District Court for Baltimore City  
Hon. Shirley M. Watts and staff  
Hon. Stuart R. Berger and staff  
Hon. Kevin F. Arthur and staff  
Hon. Michael W. Reed and staff  
Orphans' Court for Baltimore City  
Marilyn Bentley, Clerk, Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Lionel Moore, Court Administrator, Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Melissa Monroe, Jury Commissioner, Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Office of the Register of Wills for Baltimore City  
Byron Monts, IT Manager, Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Trish Trikeriotis, Court Reporter, Circuit Court for Baltimore City  
Michele McDonald, Chief Counsel, Courts and Judicial Affairs Division, Office of the Attorney General  
Mark Weisner, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General  
Letitia Dzirasa, M.D., Commissioner of Health for Baltimore City  
Kirstin Downs, Esq., Office of the Public Defender  
Camille Blake-Fall, Esq. Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City  
Maryland Legal Aid  
James L. Shea, Esq., City Solicitor  
Bradley Tanner, Office of Governmental Relations and Public Affairs  
Terri Charles, Office of Government Relations and Public Affairs  
Joseph Bennett, Bar Librarian, Baltimore Bar Library  
Dr. Lawrence Heller, PhD., Chief Medical Officer, Medical Services Department  
Robert Weisengoff, Executive Director, Pretrial Services  
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.