

**IN THE  
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

**Administrative Order No. 2021-05**

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 individuals whom have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process, allowing for the progression to more robust levels of operation; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland, effective July 1, 2021, has lifted all of the public health measures enacted in response to the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Baltimore, effective July 1, 2021, has lifted all of the public health measures enacted in response to the COVID-19 emergency; 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 certain health measures remains necessary in order to mitigate potential for exposure to persons visiting a court or judicial facility and judicial personnel; and

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, the undersigned having conferred with the Administrative Judge of the District Court of Maryland for Baltimore City and pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-105(b), effective July 1, 2021, it is this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021 hereby:

**ORDERED** that, all persons who have not completed the COVID-19 vaccination process 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, 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 July 1, 2021, while within the courthouses, the wearing of face masks is voluntary for judges,

Judiciary personnel, and all other persons who have completed the COVID-19 vaccination process;  
and it is further

**ORDERED** that, a judge or magistrate presiding over a courtroom proceeding may require a participant who is required to wear a face mask to use a clear mask or wear a personal barrier shield in lieu of a face 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, 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

July 1, 2021, in large congregate settings, such as jury pools, social distancing shall be required; 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

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

**ORDERED** that, 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) if not fully vaccinated, 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 a social distance of six (6) feet or more;
- and it is further

**ORDERED** that, any person may be denied entrance to or required to leave the courthouses as a result of the screening process or, if not fully vaccinated, as a result of refusing to comply with the requirements to wear a face mask or maintain social distancing; 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, to the extent that this Order conflicts or is inconsistent with a prior local administrative order for this Court, this Order shall prevail; 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, the Circuit Court for Baltimore City will continue to conduct remote proceedings where possible.

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.