

**IN THE
CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

Administrative Order No. 2022-02

WHEREAS, Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, a continuing emergency exists; and

WHEREAS, The administration of justice necessarily has been affected by the pandemic and will continue to require the professionalism, courtesy, and cooperation of the members of the bench and the bar in navigating the changes to practices and procedures; and

WHEREAS, Remote proceedings have proved to be useful and effective in facilitating the courts' performance of core functions during the COVID-19 emergency and will continue; and

WHEREAS, The emergence of the highly infectious Omicron variant in the latter part of 2021 required a return to modified Phase III operations; and

WHEREAS, positivity rates have now fallen, but the community transmission rate is high and the rate of full vaccination is 63.5% in Baltimore City¹,

WHEREAS, Baltimore City has lifted the indoor masking requirement effective March 1, 2022,

NOW THEREFORE, consistent with the [Fourth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency Administrative Order](#), by the Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, effective **March 7, 2022**, while within the Mitchell Courthouse, 100 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, the Cummings

¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a person has been fully vaccinated when the person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html> The rate of vaccination is tracked and documented by the State of Maryland at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine>

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”), it is this 28th day of February 2022, hereby

ORDERED that 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 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 proceedings while within the courthouses; 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 reattach 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 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 COVID-19 screening questions and non-contact temperature checks shall cease; and it is further

ORDERED that the restriction limiting two people to use an elevator at a time shall be lifted; and it is further

ORDERED that social distancing requirements shall decrease from six feet to three feet; 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 *Fourth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency*, issued on February 18, 2022, 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.

/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
Kevin M. Cox, 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.