

FILED

MAY 21 2021

PATRICK KEANEY
Clerk, U.S. District Court

By _____
Deputy Clerk

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

IN RE: COURTHOUSE MASKING, SOCIAL)
DISTANCING, AND ENTRY PROCEDURES)
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

General Order No. 21-11

GENERAL ORDER

This Order amends General Orders No. 20-5, 20-12 and 20-14. The Court continues to monitor the evolving circumstances presented by the outbreak of the coronavirus known as COVID-19 throughout the United States, the State of Oklahoma, and, in particular, in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, and finds it appropriate at this time to amend its previous directive regarding masking and social distancing. The U.S. Center for Disease Control ("CDC") has issued updated guidelines on mask wearing, social distancing, and other COVID-19 protocols for fully vaccinated individuals. These new guidelines state that "fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance." Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving a second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Based on this updated guidance, the Court has determined that fully vaccinated individuals are now not required to wear masks or social distance in the courthouse setting.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT General Order 20-12 is rescinded as of May 17, 2021, with respect to individuals considered fully vaccinated and the Court will be following the updated CDC guidance set forth above. Individuals not considered fully vaccinated are required to comply with the masking guidelines set forth under General Order No. 20-12. Each judge, however, retains the discretion to set guidelines for proceedings taking place in his or her courtroom. This Order applies to all proceedings conducted in the Ed Edmondson Courthouse including grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies. Consequently, the guidelines in General Order 20-14 directed to grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies are rescinded.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that entry procedures to the Ed Edmondson Courthouse as set forth in General Order No. 20-5 remain in effect, as amended below:

Individuals may not enter the Ed Edmondson Courthouse:

- If, in the last fourteen (14) days they have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or asked to self-quarantine by any physician, hospital, or healthcare agency due to COVID-19.
- If, in the last fourteen (14) days they have had contact with anyone who has been

diagnosed with an active case of COVID-19 and they have not been fully vaccinated prior to contact.

- If they are currently experiencing signs of fever, a cough, shortness or breath, or a recent loss of smell or taste.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer or Deputy United States Marshal.


Any attorney or party shall promptly notify opposing counsel and the Court if they reasonably suspect that a participant in any scheduled hearing, trial, conference, or other proceeding at the courthouse may come within any of the categories listed above. To the extent possible, counsel shall affirmatively inquire of their clients and witnesses whether they come within any of these categories.

If you are scheduled or required to appear at the courthouse and are denied access or otherwise unable to attend because of the restrictions in this Order, you are directed to proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the chambers of the presiding judge;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services Officer or a Probation Officer, please contact the Probation Office at (918) 684-7970;
- For Bankruptcy Court matters, please contact the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office at (918) 549-7200;
- For Section 341 Meetings of Creditors, please contact the U.S. Trustee's Office at (918) 581-6670;
- For other District Court matters, please contact the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court at (918) 684-7920.

The Court will continue to monitor the directives from the CDC and local health officials and will reevaluate its guidelines to the COVID-19 virus as needed. These procedures contained herein will remain in effect until it is determined otherwise.

It is so ordered this 21st day of May, 2021.



RONALD A. WHITE
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT