

Jan 06 2022

United States District Court  
Northern District of Ohio  
General Order

**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-08**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

In Re:	)	
	)	
	)	ORDER NO. 2020-08-10
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)	)	
PHASED-IN RECOVERY PLAN	)	
	)	

This Court previously issued General Order No. 2020-05, Amended General Order No. 2020-05-1, and Amended General Order No. 2020-05-2 In Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PUBLIC EMERGENCY. These Orders were in response to the exponential spread of COVID-19 and the declaring of a public emergency by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Ohio.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities had advised the taking of precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to the virus and slow the spread of the disease, including the implementation of multi-phase business recovery plans to gradually resume operations. In response, the Court issued General Order No. 2020-08, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-1, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-2, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-3, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-4, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-5, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-6, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-7, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-8, and Amended General Order No. 2020-08-9 In Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PHASED-IN RECOVERY PLAN.

Due to the continued threat to public health and safety currently posed by COVID-19, as well as the recent variants of the virus circulating in the United States, public health authorities are still advising the taking of precautions. The Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts has strongly encouraged courts to follow the guidance of these authorities.

NOW, THEREFORE, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio hereby issues the following Order, effective January 6, 2022:

1. Health screening (temperature checking and COVID-19 screening questions) may take place for admittance to a courthouse. Individuals will be denied entrance if they have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher or respond affirmatively to any COVID-19 screening question. Visitors denied entrance should contact by telephone the office to be visited in order to explore alternatives to entering the courthouse.
2. Everyone entering a courthouse in the Northern District of Ohio is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, which includes a booster.
3. All persons, regardless of vaccination status, seeking entry into any federal courthouse in the Northern District of Ohio must wear a face covering which completely covers the wearer's nose and mouth in all public spaces.
4. Upon entering space belonging to a tenant agency in a federal courthouse, all persons, regardless of vaccination status, must comply with the rules and requirements of that tenant agency regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
5. Upon entering courtrooms, judges' chambers and offices, or any space where a court proceeding is being conducted, all persons must comply with the rules and requirements of the presiding judge regarding face coverings.
6. In-person civil jury trials are suspended through February 11, 2022.
7. Criminal jury trials are suspended through February 11, 2022, absent extraordinary circumstances as determined by the presiding judge. If extraordinary circumstances exist, the judge will promptly notify all trial participants. The time period of the continuances implemented by this General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances outweigh the interest of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy trial pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 3161(h)(7)(A).
8. Grand jury matters may proceed after consultation with the Chief Judge.
9. If possible, proceedings will be conducted by video conference or teleconference.

10. Employees of the District Court will continue to telework unless required to report to the courthouse by the appropriate Court Unit Executive to perform essential functions. Telework or in-person attendance by chambers staff is at the discretion of the judge.
11. Employees reporting to a courthouse will self-monitor for indicative COVID-19 symptoms before reporting to the workplace. If COVID-19 symptoms are present, the employee will stay home and contact their healthcare provider for medical care and guidance regarding when it is safe to return to the workplace.
12. Employees may remove face masks when alone in their private office/cubicle, unless adhering to CDC guidance for returning to the workplace after COVID-19 infection or exposure.
13. If possible, physical distancing will be encouraged in all areas.

This General Order supersedes Amended General Order No. 2020-08-9 which is hereby vacated.

The Court will regularly review this Amended General Order No. 2020-08-10.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

FOR THE COURT



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Patricia A. Gaughan  
Chief Judge