AMENDED GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-08

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

In Re:	)	
	)	
	)	ORDER NO. 2020-08-12
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, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-9, Amended General Order No. 2020-08-10, and Amended General Order No. 2020-08-11 In Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PHASED-IN RECOVERY PLAN.

Although the President of the United States continues to declare a national emergency due to COVID-19, the CDC now reports that with widespread population immunity due to vaccination, boosters, and prior COVID-19 infection, the overall risk of severe disease is now generally lower. As a result, the CDC's framework for recommending prevention measures will now be based upon a COVID-19 Community Level model.

NOW, THEREFORE, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio hereby issues the following Order, effective immediately:
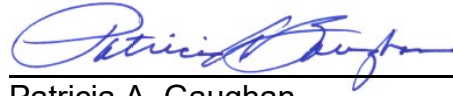
1. Consistent with CDC guidance, the wearing of face coverings is not required to gain entrance into a federal courthouse in the Northern District of Ohio unless the then-current COVID-19 Community Level is high in the courthouse location. A high Community Level will be indicated on signage that will be posted at the entrance.

2. Health screening (temperature checking and COVID-19 screening questions) for admittance to a courthouse is eliminated.

3. Everyone entering a courthouse in the Northern District of Ohio is strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19, which includes a booster.

4. Jurors entering a jury assembly room will be required to wear a face covering, unless otherwise instructed.

5. Individuals attending a naturalization ceremony in a courthouse will be required to wear a face covering, unless otherwise instructed.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Judicial officers are encouraged to implement a mask requirement during events involving a large number of participants.

9. If possible, proceedings should be conducted by video conference or teleconference.

10. 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 return to the workplace pursuant to the guidance of the CDC and/or healthcare provider.

This General Order supersedes Amended General Order No. 2020-08-11 which is hereby vacated.

The Court will regularly review this Amended General Order No. 2020-08-12.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT

Patricia A. Gaughan
Chief Judge