

August 24, 2021

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. 2020-08-9
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, and Amended General Order No. 2020-08-8 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 September 7, 2021:

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.
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. In-person civil and criminal jury trials will resume with no restrictions on length of trials or number of trials permitted in each courthouse. Voir dire proceedings will resume in the presiding judge's courtroom.
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. If a judge does not require universal face coverings, potential jurors will be so informed during the selection process.
7. To support the resumption of in-person court proceedings, employees in all court units will report for work on-site, unless otherwise instructed.
8. 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.
9. Employees may remove face masks when alone in their private office/cubicle.
10. If possible, physical distancing will be encouraged in all areas.

This General Order supersedes Amended General Order No. 2020-08-8 which is hereby vacated.

The Court will regularly review this Amended General Order No. 2020-08-9.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT



Patricia A. Gaughan
Chief Judge