

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE:

REVISED COURT OPERATIONS AND
JURY TRIALS

STANDING ORDER NO. 2022-08

(Supersedes Standing Order 2022-04)

STANDING ORDER

AND NOW, this 5th day of April 2022, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the findings and directives of Standing Order 2022-04 are **RESCINDED**. The Court continually reviews its operations to identify measures that will help protect Court employees and the public from the COVID-19 virus, while at the same time preserving its core mission of serving the public through the fair and impartial administration of justice.

The Court's ongoing review of its operations includes the monitoring of guidance emanating from various authoritative sources relative to the administration of the federal courts. Integral to that analysis is the guidance promulgated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on February 25, 2022, which sets forth new COVID-19 community level metrics. These metrics consider county community data, such as hospital admissions and bed space, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases. Based on such data, the CDC has assigned a low, medium or high community level to counties to assist in assessing COVID-19 prevention steps, including masking requirements. As of this date, most of the counties that make up the Middle District of Pennsylvania have received a LOW/Green COVID-19 community level, which does not require indoor masking unless individuals are at high risk for severe illness.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, effective immediately and until further order of the Court, that:

1. This Order supersedes Standing Order 2022-04 entered on March 7, 2022.

2. The Court continues the suspension of the requirement that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, entering the Ronald Reagan Federal Building & United States Courthouse in Harrisburg, Dauphin County; the William J. Nealon Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Scranton, Lackawanna County; the Herman T. Schneebeli Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Williamsport, Lycoming County; and the Max Rosenn United States Courthouse in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County, must at all times wear a mask or face covering in common or public spaces, including but not limited to, hallways, bathrooms, Clerk's Office public counter/intake area, Probation Office reception, elevators and stairwells.

3. The Court now suspends the requirement that Jurors, Grand Jurors, and all those participating in courtroom proceedings wear masks, subject to the Judicial Officers' discretion as set forth below in paragraph 4.

4. The Judicial Officers and Court Unit Executives are given discretion with respect to the implementation of additional safety protocols, including requiring masks in their respective chambers, offices, and courtrooms. With respect to non-court personnel, including the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Court Security Officers, masking shall be determined by their respective employing offices.

5. Criminal defendants will continue to be required to have a negative COVID-19 test before being transported from a prison to the courthouses.

6. This Standing Order shall be enforceable by the United States Marshals Service and the Court Security Officers.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further notice.

BY THE COURT:



Matthew W. Brann

Chief United States District Judge