

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURTHOUSE VISITATION AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

In the interest of public health and safety, and after consideration of public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State of Rhode Island, and other public health authorities, the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island hereby orders that, effective immediately and until this order is rescinded, the following persons may not enter the U.S. Courthouse in the District of Rhode Island or any offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building:

- Persons who have been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional within the last 14 days;
- Persons who have had contact in the last 14 days with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or told to presume they have COVID-19 by a health professional, unless the diagnosis was more than 14 days ago and the person diagnosed has been symptom-free for the past 72 hours;
- Persons who have had cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or extreme fatigue within the last 14 days, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition;
- Persons who reside with someone who has had cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, or extreme fatigue within the last 14 days, unless the symptoms are attributable to another known condition;
- Persons who have returned from international travel, a cruise ship, river voyage or returned from travel to a state that has a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19 as noted under the [State of Rhode Island's quarantine executive order](#) within the past 14 days.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer or the U.S. Marshals Service.

Anyone who has business in the U.S. Courthouse or offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building but who cannot enter because of this order, should do the following:

- Persons who are represented by an attorney should contact their attorney;
- Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before a judge should contact the judge's case manager directly ([contact information can be found on the Court's website](#));
- Persons who are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services or Probation should contact the Office of Probation and Pretrial at (401) 752-7300
- Jurors should contact the Jury Department at (401) 752-7232
- Employees reporting to work should contact their supervisor;
- Persons having business with the U.S. Trustee's Office should contact (401) 528-5551;
- Persons having business with the General Services Administration (GSA) should contact (401) 528-4139;
- Persons having business with the U.S. Marshals Service should contact (401) 528-5300;
- Persons having business with the office of U.S. Senator Jack Reed should contact
- For all other matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at (401) 752-7200

It is further ordered that every visitor who comes to the U.S. Courthouse or offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process:

- Have their temperature taken, using a contactless thermometer. A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, will not be permitted to enter the courthouse;
- Answer screening questions about COVID-19 status and possible recent COVID-19 exposure. A person whose answers indicate that they fall into one of the categories listed above of persons who may not enter the courthouse, will not be permitted to enter the courthouse;
- Wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. If a person does not have a mask, one will provided;
- Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at the courthouse entrance.

It is further ordered that prior to arriving at the courthouse daily, all court employees of the U.S. Courthouse or offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building must take their temperatures and complete a screening questionnaire. Employees who fall into a category of persons excludable from the building must not report to work and should contact their supervisor.

It is further ordered that while in the courthouse, all persons must comply with court and security personnel instructions and the following rules:

- **Face Coverings:** You must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth in all public areas of the courthouse (including hallways, public counters, elevators and courtrooms), unless you are permitted to remove your mask by an authorized court staff member;
- **Social Distancing:** You must adhere to safe social distancing rules, by standing or sitting at least six feet away from other individuals. You must abide by markings on floors and benches indicating where you may stand or sit. If you are standing in line, you must keep six feet away from the person in front of you and behind you, unless you are taking care of a small child or assisting someone with special needs. Elevator and bathroom capacity will be limited to one person at a time.
- **Instructional Signage:** You must abide by all health and hygiene signage throughout the courthouse, including signage regarding masks, social distancing, occupancy restrictions, and hand washing.

Anyone who fails or refuses to abide by these rules will be required to leave the courthouse immediately. Anyone who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

By the Court:

September 25, 2020

/s/ John J. McConnell Jr., Chief Judge