

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER REGARDING COURTHOUSE ACCESS
AND CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS**

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 U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island hereby rescinds its September 22, 2020, General Order Regarding Protocols for In-Person Hearings and Jury Trials, its May 30, 2021, Amended General Order Regarding Courthouse Visitation and Access Restrictions, and its May 28, 2021, Ninth General Order Regarding the Continuity of Operations During Coronavirus Pandemic, and finds the following:

1. **Personal Mitigation**: All persons must be fully vaccinated¹ and present proof to enter the U.S. Courthouse or any offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building (“Courthouse”) and wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. If a person does not have a mask, one will be provided. Persons who are unable to provide proof of vaccination upon entry and come into the Courthouse for more than 15 minutes will be required to:
 - Take a COVID-19 rapid test on site and test negative.

2. **Courthouse Mitigation**: The Court will continue to carry out and enforce several the following mitigation measures in the Courthouse:
 - Social distancing.
 - Portable HEPA filters during in-person proceedings.
 - CO2 monitoring devices during in-person proceedings.
 - Close monitoring of air handling and filtration units throughout the Courthouse, and
 - Enhanced cleaning of common areas.

¹ In general, people are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

3. **Factors Affecting Mitigation:** It is further ordered that all persons entering the Courthouse for any reason must follow the direction of presiding judge or Court personnel regarding the applicability of the Personal Mitigation measures listed above. The following factors may require persons entering the Courthouse for a specific purpose to layer additional mitigation measures:
 - Current infection rate in the State of Rhode Island.
 - Duration of visit.
 - Location of an in-person proceeding; and
 - Number of persons actively participating in an in-person proceeding.
4. **CARES Act:** The Court will continue to conduct criminal video and telephonic conferencing pursuant to the CARES Act and extends this authorization as outlined in this Court's Amended General Order Regarding Criminal Matters During the Coronavirus Pandemic dated March 30, 2020, for an additional 90 days up to and including January 15, 2022. Parties are encouraged to continue to consent to and participate in video and teleconference hearings. The Court will again review this authorization and determine whether to extend it after this 90-day period.
5. **Clerk's Office:** Effective August 2, 2021, the Clerk's Office in the U.S. Courthouse building at One Exchange Terrace will resume its normal in-person business hours (Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM). The Clerk's Office in the portion of the John O. Pastore Building occupied by the Court will continue to remain closed to the public until further notice.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

By the Court:

October 14, 2021

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