

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

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

Due to the increased threat to public health and safety presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is ordered that:

1. The U.S. Courthouse building at One Exchange Terrace and the portion of the John O. Pastore Building (“Pastore Building”) occupied by the Court will close to the public until further notice.
2. All permanent employees should maximize telework to the extent possible and may consult with their supervisor about returning to the Courthouse to conduct limited duties.
3. All persons must be fully vaccinated<sup>1</sup> 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. Fully vaccinated persons may also be required to take a COVID-19 rapid test for entry if required by the presiding judge or Court personnel.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.#

4. 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, up to and including February 28, 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 in 90-days or earlier.
5. 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 (401) 943-3100;
  - For all other matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at (401) 752-7200.

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

December 20, 2021

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