

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

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING THE CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS
AND COURTHOUSE ACCESSABILITY**

In the interest of public health and safety, the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island hereby rescinds its February 2, 2023, General Order Regarding the Continuity of Operations and Courthouse Accessibility and finds the following:

1. **Mitigation Measures**: All persons entering the U.S. Courthouse or any offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building (“Courthouse”) are not required to wear a mask. However, any person who wishes to wear a mask is encouraged to do so. The Clerk shall make masks available to any person who requests one.

It is further ordered that COVID-19 rapid testing is no longer required for case participants entering the Courthouse for a hearing or conference. However, the Clerk shall make test kits available for those that wish to test prior to a proceeding.

At any time, a presiding judge may require persons entering the Courthouse to wear a mask and/or take a COVID-19 test due to the following:

- Type of proceeding;
 - Duration of visit;
 - Current infection rate in the State of Rhode Island;
 - Location of in-person proceeding; and
 - Number of persons actively participating in an in-person proceeding.
2. **CARES Act**: The Court may 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 May 11, 2023. The Court will again review this authorization and determine whether to extend it after this period.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

By the Court:

February 27, 2023

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