

# 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, 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 August 2, 2022, General Order Regarding the Continuity of Operations and Courthouse Accessibility and finds the following:

1. **Personal Mitigation**: All persons must wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth to enter the U.S. Courthouse or any offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building ("Courthouse"). If a person does not have a mask, one will be provided.
2. **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 additional Personal Mitigation measures. The following factors may require persons entering the Courthouse for a specific purpose to layer additional mitigation measures such as taking a rapid COVID-19 test and maintaining proper distancing:
  - 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.
3. **Courthouse Mitigation**: The Court will continue to carry out several of the following mitigation measures in the Courthouse:
  - Social distancing when appropriate.
  - 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.

4. **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 February 2, 2023. The Court will again review this authorization and determine whether to extend it after this period.

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:

November 17, 2022

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