

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

**AMENDED 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District Court for the District of Rhode Island hereby orders that, effective immediately and until this order is rescinded, the following applies to all persons entering the U.S. Courthouse in the District of Rhode Island or any offices occupied by the Court in the John O. Pastore Building (“Courthouse”):

Court Employees: All employees must be vaccinated and present proof to Human Resources to return to the Courthouse unless a reasonable accommodation is approved. All vaccinated employees will not be required to:

- Have their temperature taken, using a contactless thermometer.
- Answer screening questions about COVID-19 status and possible recent COVID-19 exposure.
- Wear a facial covering if they are not engaging with the public.
- Take a COVID-19 rapid test.

Members of the Public: Unless they are vaccinated and show proof of vaccination upon entry, members of the public, including case participants, witnesses, and attorneys who come into the Courthouse for more than 15 minutes will be required to:

- 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.
- Wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. If a person does not have a mask, one will be provided.
- Take a COVID-19 rapid test.
- Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at the Courthouse entrance.

It is further ordered that all case participants visiting the Courthouse for an in-person scheduled proceeding must follow the direction of the presiding judge regarding the applicability of the above measures. It will be within the presiding judge's discretion to adopt the above measures.

Non-Court Employees that work in the Courthouse: Occupants from other departments and agencies must wear facial coverings at all times and be tested for COVID-19 twice per week unless the employee has shown proof of vaccination to their supervisor. Those who have shown proof of vaccination to their supervisor will be allowed to go without a mask in the Courthouse if they are not engaging with the public and will not need to be tested.

It is further ordered that any persons exhibiting the below may not enter the Courthouse:

- 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 Courthouse 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 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:

May 30, 2021

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