

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2022-1

In response to the ongoing pandemic caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Court has provided instruction on mask usage within the Courthouses of the Western District of Arkansas. *See* Administrative Order 2021-5. The mask requirement differs based on whether an individual is considered “fully vaccinated.” The purpose of this order is to amend the minimum requirements for being considered fully vaccinated within the district’s courthouses.¹

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sets forth guidance defining what it means to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Originally, an individual was considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two (2) weeks after they received their second shot of the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two (2) weeks after they received a single shot of the one dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. Since that time, variants of COVID-19 (Delta and Omicron) have emerged. In light of these highly infectious variants and their rapid spread across the country, the CDC has updated its guidance and recommends that people stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccines which includes booster doses of the vaccine. Under the CDC’s new recommendation, to be up to date with one’s vaccines: 1) an individual, 12 years or older, who received the Pfizer vaccine must receive both doses of the 2-dose series along with a booster shot taken at least five (5) months after completing that primary COVID-19 vaccination; 2) an individual, 18 years or older, who received the Moderna vaccine must receive both doses of

¹ In certain proceedings involving large numbers of individuals, all participants may be required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status. *See* Administrative Order 2021-10.


the 2-dose series along with a booster shot taken at least six (6) months after completing that primary COVID-19 vaccination; and 3) an individual, 18 years or older, who received the single dose of the one dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine must receive a booster shot taken at least two (2) months after receiving the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

Accordingly, in response to the CDC's guidelines and recommendation, the Court finds that individuals will now be considered fully vaccinated within the Courthouses of the Western District of Arkansas or court occupied areas of the Courthouses if they meet the following requirements:

- (1) Individuals, 12 years or older, who received the 2-dose Pfizer vaccine, and who have also received a booster shot at least five (5) months after completing that primary COVID-19 vaccination;
- (2) Individuals, 18 years or older, who received the 2-dose Moderna vaccine, and who have also received a booster shot at least six (6) months after completing that primary COVID-19 vaccination; and
- (3) Individuals, 18 years or older, who received the one dose Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine, and who have also received a booster shot at least two (2) months after receiving the initial does of a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 10th day of January, 2022.


SUSAN O. HICKEY
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE