

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

DEC 27 2021

GENERAL ORDER NO. 53

David J. Smith  
Clerk

**REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER COURT FACILITIES**

This General Order is issued after consideration of the updated guidance from the President of the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Fulton County, and the City of Atlanta regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. It is hereby ORDERED effective on Monday, December 27, 2021, that:

- General Order 52, entered on November 15, 2021, is VACATED. General Order 44, General Order 46, General Order 49, General Order 50, and General Order 51 (Amended) remain vacated.
- All court staff, on-site contractors, and visitors must comply with screening procedures and posted signs.
- Individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received their second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine.
- The United States Marshals Service, through its Court Security Officer program, is responsible for enforcing the entry restrictions in this order.

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Fully vaccinated individuals SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED ACCESS to court facilities if they:
  - Tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
  - Are undergoing testing for COVID-19; or
  - Currently have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including a fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED ACCESS to court facilities if they:

- Tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
  - Are undergoing testing for COVID-19;
  - Within the previous 14 days, have had known close contact with a person who has COVID-19 or have been asked or required to self-quarantine; or
  - Currently have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including a fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Each visitor must use the temperature self-check station. Posted written instructions will list the procedures for taking the entrant's temperature.
  - By entering court facilities, all individuals are self-certifying that they meet the requirements for doing so and that they will comply with posted signs.
  - Individuals who would not be allowed access to court facilities shall not submit paper copies of briefs or appendices and should contact the Clerk's Office for further instructions.
  - A list of all relevant contacts and telephone numbers for the court units will be posted. Any visitor or vendor denied building entry will be asked to contact the appropriate court unit for further instructions.

### MASKING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

- The Circuit Executive shall determine whether individuals in court facilities should be required to wear a mask. The decision shall be made based on all relevant guidance, including that from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). Signs posted on the building entrances will notify employees, visitors, and contractors of the current requirements.
- Nothing in this order prohibits an individual who is fully vaccinated from choosing to wear a mask and physically distancing.
- Visitors entering court facilities who are not fully vaccinated must:
  - Always wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth, and that is in accordance with current CDC guidance; and

- To the extent practicable and consistent with CDC guidelines, always maintain a distance of at least six feet from others, including in offices, conference rooms, courtrooms, communal spaces, and workspaces.
  - These guidelines will remain in place until the CDC no longer recommends that unvaccinated individuals in Fulton County, Georgia, wear a mask in public, indoor settings. The Circuit Executive is authorized to change or remove this requirement.
- Employees and on-site contractors entering court facilities who are not fully vaccinated must:
    - Wear a mask that covers their nose and mouth, and that is in accordance with current CDC guidance, except when alone in an office with floor to ceiling walls and a closed door, or for a limited time when eating or drinking and maintaining distancing in accordance with CDC guidance; and
    - To the extent practicable and consistent with CDC guidelines, always maintain a distance of at least six feet from others, including in offices, conference rooms, courtrooms, communal spaces, and workspaces.
    - These guidelines will remain in place until the CDC no longer recommends that unvaccinated individuals in Fulton County, Georgia, wear a mask in public, indoor settings. The Circuit Executive is authorized to change or remove this requirement.
  - Masked individuals may be asked to lower their masks briefly for identification purposes in compliance with safety and security requirements.
  - The presiding judge of any court proceeding in any location where court is held may require the wearing of a mask or authorize the removal of a mask during the proceeding.

### VACCINATION STATUS

- All court staff, on-site contractors, and visitors must verify their vaccination status prior to being allowed entry to court facilities. Individuals choosing not to provide a response to inquiries concerning their vaccination status will be treated as unvaccinated persons.
- Fully vaccinated individuals must sign a statement attesting to the truthfulness of the response they provide.

- Visitors to court facilities who are not fully vaccinated must provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test from no later than the previous three days prior to entering court facilities.
- Employees and on-site contractors entering court facilities who are not fully vaccinated must:
  - Undergo testing for COVID-19 at least once per week and as required by the Court; and
  - Provide proof of at least one negative COVID-19 test result per week as soon as the results are received.

The Court will continue to assess the ongoing need for entry restrictions and will update such restrictions as warranted. The Court takes this temporary action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and out of concern for the health and safety of the federal judiciary and staff, members of the Bar, and the public.

**Questions regarding this Order may be directed to the Clerk's Office at (404) 335-6100 or [clerks\\_office@ca11.uscourts.gov](mailto:clerks_office@ca11.uscourts.gov).**

/s/ William H. Pryor Jr.  
Chief Judge