

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MAINE**

**In Re:**

**Court Operations Under            )**  
**the Exigent Circumstances    )**       **GENERAL ORDER 2023-01**  
**Created by the COVID-19        )**  
**Coronavirus & Related           )**  
**Pandemic Precautions           )**

**GENERAL ORDER ADDRESSING THE TERMINATION OF THE COVID-19  
NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

On April 10, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., approved a Congressional Resolution terminating the COVID-19 National Emergency first declared on March 13, 2020. That termination necessitates the abrogation of most of the Court's General Orders adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is accordingly **ORDERED** that:

**I.     Abrogation of COVID-19 General Orders**

The following General Orders are abrogated, effective May 10, 2023:

- General Order 2020-6: Expedited Procedures for Compassionate Release Cases
- General Order 2020-11: Video Teleconference and Telephone Conference Proceedings in Criminal Matters
- General Order 2020-17: Limited Hours and Services of the Clerk's Office
- General Order 2021-2: Videoconferencing and Telephone Conferencing Authorization
- General Order 2021-3: Bar Admissions Without a Hearing
- General Order 2021-4: Resumption of Grand Jury Proceedings and In-Person Proceedings
- General Order 2021-6: Masking and Courthouse Entry Requirements
- General Order 2021-7: Employee Vaccinations

## **II. Remote Access to Civil and Bankruptcy Proceedings**

During the National Emergency, the Judicial Conference temporarily suspended its broadcasting policy, known as the “Cameras in the Courtroom Policy,” thus permitting the use of teleconferencing to provide audio-only remote access to District Court and Bankruptcy Court civil and bankruptcy proceedings for the public and the media. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has announced that the suspension of the broadcasting policy will remain in effect until 120 days from when the Judicial Conference formally determines that the suspension should be terminated. Thus, until further order, remote audio access to civil and bankruptcy proceedings is permitted.

## **III. COVID-19 Mitigation Measures**

Although the COVID-19 National Emergency Declaration has ended, the COVID-19 virus remains a threat to public health and the continuity of court operations, particularly those involving the assembly of a large number of persons, such as jury empanelment proceedings and jury trials. As conditions warrant, the Court will from time to time adopt and publish on its website protocols requiring COVID-19 mitigation measures deemed necessary to promote public health and safety in connection with jury empanelment, jury trial proceedings, and other court operations and events.

**SO ORDERED.**

**Dated: April 18, 2023**

/s/ Jon D. Levy  
**CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE**