

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO



NOTICE FROM THE CLERK
NO. 22-01

**Extension of Policy on Mandatory Use of Face Masks
in the Clemente Ruiz Nazario United States Courthouse and
the Federico Degetau Federal Office Building in San Juan**

Please be advised that all employees and visitors, including but not limited to members of the bar, press and public, will continue to be required to wear a face mask or face covering while in the premises of the Clemente Ruiz Nazario United States Courthouse and the Federico Degetau Federal Office Building in Hato Rey. This mandatory requirement is consistent with the March 7, 2022 policy adopted by the Facilities Security Committee of the Federal Office Building in Hato Rey. A copy of the policy is included with this notice, and is available in the District Court's internet website and official Twitter account.

For additional information and updates on Court operations and services to the public, members of the Bar and public may refer to the Court's internet website and its official Twitter account.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 8th day of March 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Antongiorgi-Jordan".


MARIA ANTONGIORGI-JORDAN
CLERK OF COURT

c: www.prd.uscourts.gov
[@USCourtsPRD](https://twitter.com/USCourtsPRD)

FACILITIES SECURITY COMMITTEE

FEDERICO DEGETAU FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

To: Federal Protective Service ("FPS")
General Services Administration ("GSA")

From: 
Aida Delgado-Colón, District Judge, United States District Court of Puerto Rico
Chairperson, Facilities Security Committee

CC: Agencies and Tenants,
Federico Degetau Federal Office Building, Hato Rey

Date: March 7, 2022

Re: Extension of Application of Policy of Mandatory use of Face Masks or Covering in
the Federico Degetau Federal Office Building and Hato Rey Complex

The Facilities Security Committee (FSC) of the Federico Degetau Federal Office Building ("FOB") in San Juan, Puerto Rico met on July 7, 2021 to discuss the Governor of Puerto Rico's Executive Order 2021-054,¹ and its effect on the [Continued Application of Policy of Mandatory Use of Masks or Cloth Face Covering for All Employees and Public of the Federico Degetau Federal Office Building and United States Courthouse in Hato Rey](#) ("Mandatory PPE Policy"). Based on continued health and safety concerns over visitors, the FSC approved and reaffirmed the Mandatory PPE Policy, which has been in effect since May 11, 2020. This policy requires the continued use of facial mask and practice of social distancing in public areas and corridors within the FOB and the Complex, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. Each FSC tenant maintained its discretion to adopt internal protocols and procedures based on their respective agency's needs, which will only be applicable within premises of that particular agency.

On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised its [guidance on the use of masks](#), based on [COVID-19 Community Levels](#). Consistent with the CDC's updated guidance, the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force issued [Initial Implementation Guidance for Federal Agencies on COVID-19 Community Levels and Mask-Wearing](#) and related [Frequently Asked Questions](#). According to this guidance, masks are no longer required to be worn in General Service Administration ("GSA") controlled facilities when CDC characterizes the counties in which they are located as having a "Low" or "Medium" COVID-19 Community Level, unless a locality imposes more protective pandemic-related safety requirements, in which case those requirements should be followed in GSA-controlled facilities within that locality. **Puerto Rico is currently listed as a "Low" COVID-19 Community Level.** On March 7, 2022, the

¹ OE-2021-054 (July 1, 2021) <https://www.estado.pr.gov/en/executive-orders/>

Governor of Puerto Rico issued Executive Order 2022-019,² which, effective March 10, 2022, would eliminate the mask mandate in exterior and interior areas throughout the island, with the exception of health facilities, elderly assisted living and care facilities, and in other circumstances as deemed appropriate by the Secretary of the Department of Health to avoid wide spread of the COVID-19 virus. Nonetheless, the declaration of emergency remains in place.

In its March 7, 2022 meeting, based on continued health and safety concerns over the health risks posed by the large number of visitors within federal premises, the FSC approved and extended the application of its Mandatory PPE Policy, requiring the continued use of facial mask and practice of social distancing in public areas and corridors within the FOB and the Complex, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. The FSC exempted from compliance of its mandatory facial mask requirement those maintenance and gardening employees while performing duties in exterior public areas of the Hato Rey Complex. The FSC also reiterated that each tenant continues to have the discretion to adopt internal protocols and procedures based on their respective agency's needs, which will only be applicable within premises of that particular agency.

The FSC will continue to require Federal Protective Service ("FPS") and the United States Marshals Service ("USMS") to enforce the policy among those seeking to enter the Complex, and while within public spaces, wear face masks or coverings, regardless of their vaccination status. The FSC members also approved that this determination shall be subject to review at a later date, based on subsequent changes to the current Puerto Rico and/or Federal health and safety regulations.

The FSC is confident that all necessary information required by GSA and necessary for FPS and USMS for the continued enforcement of the face mask policy in the FOB and the Complex is contained within this memorandum. Any questions regarding the face mask policy should be addressed to either the FOB's FSC, GSA building management personnel or local representatives of the USMS and FPS.

² OE-2022-019 (March 7, 2022) <https://www.estado.pr.gov/en/executive-orders/>