

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**Standing Order No. 2021-12**

**VACATUR OF STANDING ORDER 2020-4  
AND LIFTING RESTRICTIONS ON VISITORS  
TO COURTHOUSES**

On May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued new guidance for persons fully vaccinated against COVID-19. In short, “fully vaccinated people may resume normal activities without wearing a mask and no longer have to physically distance, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”<sup>1</sup> On May 14, 2021, Virginia’s Governor lifted Virginia’s indoor mask mandate based on the CDC’s updated guidance, and announced he will ease all distancing and capacity restrictions on May 28, 2021.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the court’s operations have been carried out in accordance with the guidance of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the CDC, the Governor of Virginia, and other state and local health authorities to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus and protect the health and safety of everyone involved with court operations and court proceedings.

On March 13, 2020, this court entered Standing Order 2020-4 to temporarily prohibit

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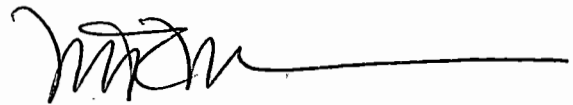
<sup>1</sup> See CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> (May 13, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> See Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of the Governor, press release at: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/may/headline-895235-en.html> (May 14, 2021).

certain persons from entering any U.S. Courthouse or U.S. Probation Office in the Western District of Virginia. Based on the recent CDC guidance, the temporary restrictions placed on certain visitors to U.S. Courthouses and U.S. Probation Offices are no longer necessary.

Accordingly, Standing Order No. 2020-4 is hereby **VACATED**. It is so **ORDERED**.

Entered, this 24th day of May, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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Chief United States District Judge