

01/10/2023

LAURA A. AUSTIN, CLERK
BY: A. Seagle
DEPUTY CLERK

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

IN RE:)
POLICY ON MASK WEARING)
AND COURTHOUSE ENTRY)
DUE TO COVID-19)

STANDING ORDER 2023-2

The Court continues to monitor the local and national emergency occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all persons wear a face covering in public or indoor settings in areas where COVID-19 Community Levels are HIGH. In accordance with the CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels model, which became effective on February 25, 2022, and due to the recent surge of COVID-19 cases due to the current XBB.1.5. variant, Standing Order 2022-8 is AMENDED, in part, as follows:

1. All persons in a federal courthouse in the Western District of Virginia, including fully vaccinated persons, must wear a face covering in public spaces in the courthouse when Community Levels are HIGH in the city or county where the courthouse is located based on the CDC's COVID-19 County Check Tool located on the CDC website.
2. The Clerk is DIRECTED to check the COVID-19 County Check Tool located on the CDC website weekly and communicate with the Court Security Officers, Clerk's Office, Probation Office, and judge's chambers in each divisional courthouse as to COVID-19 Community Level in the city or county where the courthouse is located.
3. When the CDC COVID-19 County Check Tool on the CDC website indicates that the Community Level in the city or county where the courthouse is located is HIGH,

the Clerk and Court Security Officers are DIRECTED to ensure that signage is posted by the General Services Administration at the entrance to the courthouse indicating that Community Levels are HIGH and that masks are required in all public spaces in the courthouse. Court Security Officers shall inform those entering the courthouse of this Order and shall enforce it by excluding any person from the building who does not comply with its requirements. The Court Security Officers shall provide any person barred from entering a building with a list of telephone numbers for the agencies in the building.

4. If the CDC COVID-19 County Check Tool indicates that the Community Level is below the HIGH level for the city or county where the courthouse is located, the mask requirement in public spaces is lifted.
5. Mask wearing during court proceedings and in judges' chambers in courthouses shall be at the discretion of the presiding judge.

It is so ORDERED.

Entered: January 10, 2023



Michael F. Urbanski
Chief U.S. District Judge
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Michael F. Urbanski
Chief United States District Judge