

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The Honorable Margo K. Brodie
Chief Judge



Eugene Corcoran
District Executive
Brenna B. Mahoney
Clerk of Court

UPDATED HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Effective September 1, 2022

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the health and safety of everyone who comes to our courthouses - employees, lawyers, litigants, jurors, contractors, law enforcement personnel, the press, and interested members of the public – remains our priority. After ongoing guidance from an expert epidemiologist retained by the Court, as well as leading health organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and New York State, New York City and Long Island public health agencies, the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) extends the following health and safety protocols for everyone’s protection. The Court may modify these protocols as necessary.

Courthouse Entry Restrictions

The following persons **may not** enter an EDNY courthouse:

1. Persons who feel sick or have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 including:
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Body aches
 - Congestion
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - New loss of taste of smell
2. Persons who have been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency within the last 5 days.
3. Persons who, within the last 5 days, have tested positive for COVID-19, been diagnosed with COVID-19, or told by a health professional to presume that they have COVID-19. The 5-day period must be extended if the person is still experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Persons who reside with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 5 days. Such a person may enter the courthouse, however if he or she has recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90 days, the 5-day period must be extended to persons experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (see Paragraphs 1-3 above).

If you are a court employee, you must alert your supervisor if you cannot enter the courthouse due to any of the above restrictions. You will be instructed on how to participate in the Court's Contact Tracing Program if appropriate.

If you are not an employee and are required to report to the courthouse on official business – whether you are a lawyer, witness, defendant, litigant, juror, contractor, or under the supervision of the Office of Pretrial Services or United States Probation Department – you should contact the person who directed you to report if you fall into one of the above categories.

Courthouse Entry Screening

Every person who comes to one of our courthouses, for any reason, must comply with the following:

1. You must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth and conforms to the standards listed below under **Face Coverings**.
2. Upon entering a courtroom, you will be required to sign in with your name, phone number, and email address for the purpose of contact tracing in the event of a COVID-19 exposure. If you choose not to provide the information, you will not be informed in the event of a COVID-19 exposure.
3. You are encouraged to use hand sanitizer, which will be available at all courthouse entrances.

During Your Time in the Courthouse

While you are in the courthouse, you must comply with the following rules. If you fail or refuse to abide by these rules, you will be required to leave the courthouse immediately.

1. **Face Coverings:** You must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth in all public and common areas of the courthouse (including hallways, public counters, elevators, public restrooms, and courtrooms), or in areas where more than two persons are working, and any time that you are interacting with any other person(s) regardless of social distancing. Anyone who interacts with the public must wear a mask at all times. Masks must conform to one of the following standards: (a) N95 mask, (b) KN95, (c) KF94, or (d) surgical mask. Bandanas, cloth masks, and gaiters are not permitted. Masks will be provided to you if you do not have one.
2. **Hand Washing and Sanitizing:** Everyone in the courthouse is expected to practice appropriate hygiene including frequent handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and the use of hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizer has been placed throughout the courthouses, especially in highly trafficked areas like courtroom entrances, employee work areas, and public counters.

Responsibility for ensuring a safe courthouse environment rests with everyone who comes to our Court. Please help us by following these protocols during your visit.