

United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit
Chicago, Illinois 60604

General Order 21-008

ORDER Regarding COVID-19 and Restoration of In-Person Activity

*** This Order Supersedes General Order 21-005 ***

In response to current data regarding COVID-19 infection rates, and in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local public-health authorities, the *Federal Judiciary COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines*, and the United States Courts *Safe Return to the Workplace Handbook*,

It is hereby ORDERED that:

This order supersedes General Order 21-005, entered on July 22, 2021. Subject to the qualifying provisions of General Orders 21-009 and 21-010, also issued today, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit will exit its Continuity of Operations Plan (“COOP”) and resume in-person operations effective September 1, 2021. As of that date, the court will conduct its operations according to the Federal Judiciary Phase III Recovery guidance as modified by this order and General Orders 21-009 and 21-010.

More specifically:

In-Person Oral Argument: Through October 1, 2021, oral argument will continue to be conducted telephonically or by video communications. Effective October 4, 2021, the courtroom will reopen to counsel for in-person oral argument *subject to* the qualifying provisions of General Orders 21-009 and 21-010. To ensure public access, the court will continue to livestream the audio of oral argument on its YouTube channel or another livestreaming service. Please see the court’s website for information about the livestreaming service and policies regarding resumption of in-person oral argument.

On-Site Staffing: Court employees will resume on-site staffing effective September 1, 2021, *subject to* the qualifying provisions of General Orders 21-009 and 21-010, medically necessary accommodations, and workplace policies administered by supervisors.

Library: The Circuit Librarian shall establish policies concerning the use of the library. Please see the library’s website for instructions.

This order supersedes the court's order dated March 18, 2020, which activated the COOP, and subsequent extension orders dated August 3 and November 3, 2020, and March 10 and June 3, 2021. It is subject to change based on public-health conditions.

For the Court:



Diane S. Sykes, Chief Judge

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 13th day of August, 2021.