

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	No. 22-mc-00001
	)	
FACE COVERINGS IN COURTHOUSES	)	GENERAL ORDER /
UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES	)	ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY
CREATED BY COVID-19 AND RELATED	)	<b>2022-07</b>
CORONAVIRUS	)	
	)	

**GENERAL ORDER**

On August 2, 2021, on behalf of the Facility Security Committees (FSCs) of the federal courthouses in Southern District of Indiana, the Court issued General Order 2021-21 requiring, with limited exceptions, that all persons entering or occupying a public space in a federal courthouse in this district wear a face covering. After considering guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local public health authorities, the FSCs determined that such a measure was necessary at that time to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Recently, as COVID-19 cases resulting in serious illness and death have decreased, the CDC and other public health authorities have revised their guidance on the necessity of face coverings and physical distancing. Current guidance indicates that most individuals can resume indoor activities without wearing a face covering and without physical distancing, except where required by other laws or rules.

Upon consideration of this updated public health guidance, the FSCs for the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Lee H. Hamilton Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Winfield K. Denton Federal Building and United States Courthouse, and the Terre Haute Federal Courthouse find that it is appropriate to allow persons to enter and occupy the public spaces of the federal courthouses in the Southern District of Indiana without wearing a

face covering and without maintaining physical distance from others. It is noted, however, that face coverings are recommended to stop the spread of COVID-19, and that staying up to date on vaccinations reduces the risk of becoming seriously ill.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that, **effective March 7, 2022**, and until further order of the Court,

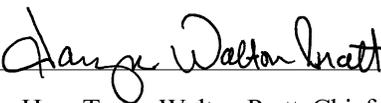
1. Face coverings are recommended, but not required to enter and occupy public spaces within Southern District of Indiana federal court facilities.
2. Upon entering space belonging to a tenant agency in a federal courthouse, all persons must comply with the rules and requirements of that tenant agency regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
3. Upon entering courtrooms, Judges' chambers and offices, or any space where a court proceeding is being conducted (including Naturalization ceremonies), all persons must comply with the rules and requirements of the presiding Judge regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
4. All persons summoned for jury service, and court staff interacting with such persons, must wear face coverings while in rooms and public spaces designated for juror check-in, orientation, and related activities until such persons enter a courtroom, at which time the rules and requirements of the presiding Judge take effect.
5. Any person found to have violated this Order may be held in contempt of court, cited, and/or expelled from the courthouse.

This Order **supersedes** the Court's General Order 2021-21 of August 2, 2021, on this subject and modifies any other order referencing that General Order to the extent provided herein. The Court may rescind or modify this Order as necessary for the health and safety of courthouse occupants.

SO ORDERED.

For the Court,

Date: March 2, 2022



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Hon. Tanya Walton Pratt, Chief Judge  
United States District Court  
Southern District of Indiana