

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT**

May 26, 2021

JUNE 2021 COURTROOM PROTOCOLS

These protocols will apply to all participants in arguments during the June in-person arguments. Any changes to these protocols will be posted on the court's website as early as possible. Counsel are responsible for being familiar with these protocols.

Generally

1. All participants must screen themselves for illness before arriving at the courthouse. Anyone experiencing any COVID symptoms should NOT report in person but should advise the clerk's office as soon as possible. Arguments may be cancelled or converted to remote in the event of illness.
2. Persons who are fully vaccinated will not be required to wear masks in the courtroom. But they may wear a mask if they wish.
3. Unvaccinated individuals will be required to wear masks in the courtrooms. Unvaccinated attorneys will be permitted to remove their masks only when they are arguing. We will operate on the honor system in handling this requirement.
4. Masking outside of the courtroom in public areas of the building is still required under GSA (the agency that operates and maintains the building) policy.
5. Social distancing, except within cohorts such as office staff, will be observed.
6. Gallery seating will be limited to court staff, and no more than two staff accompanying each arguing attorney (who will be admitted only during that particular argument). Admission will be monitored and regulated by clerk's office staff and Court Security Officers.
7. Audio of the argument will continue to be live-streamed.
8. These Protocols will be sent to arguing counsel in advance of the sitting, will be posted on the court's website, and will be physically posted at all building and courtroom entrances.

Arguing Attorneys

9. Attorneys will argue from lecterns at counsel tables. Only the arguing attorney and one other attorney will be permitted at counsel table.
10. Between cases a brief recess will be observed to allow cleaning of counsel tables, chairs, lecterns, and the replacement of sanitary microphone covers. Cleaning between changing counsel will take about 3-5 minutes.
11. Check-in times for attorneys will be staggered, and check-in will be outside each courtroom, not at the main clerk's office counter. Attorneys will be given exact check in locations and times to which they should adhere.
12. Attorneys will wait in designated areas outside the courtroom. Once cleaning has been completed, counsel will be escorted by staff to the courtroom.