

SEP - 2 2021

KEVIN P. WEIMER, Clerk
By: *J Metz* Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

IN RE: ENTRANCE SCREENING AND
WEARING OF MASKS IN NORTHERN
DISTRICT COURTHOUSES

GENERAL ORDER 21-04

ORDER

Due to the continued threat posed by the ongoing presence of the COVID-19 virus throughout the Northern District; and

Recognizing that the COVID-19 virus is spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within six feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks and that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms; and

Desiring to protect the health of those entering the courthouses consistent with the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including the use of masks in public settings, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that all persons entering courthouses of the United States District Court in Atlanta, Gainesville, Newnan, and Rome, including employees and contractors, will:

(1) Review COVID-19 screening questions posted at the entrances to each courthouse and attached to this Order;

(2) Not enter the courthouse in the event the person answers yes to any of the screening questions;

(3) Observe social distancing of six feet, where practicable, while in the public areas of the courthouse; and

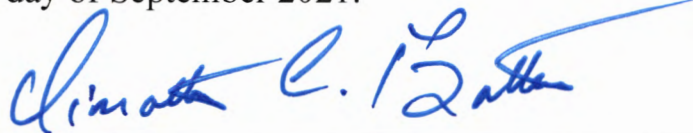
(4) Wear a mask that completely covers the person's nose and mouth at all times while in the public areas of the courthouse, unless the person is less than two years old. Visitors seeking entry to a courthouse who do not have a mask will be provided a mask. If a mask cannot be provided for any reason, the visitor will be provided the telephone number of the office he or she wishes to visit to explore alternatives to entering the courthouse. Visitors seeking to access either the Bankruptcy or District Courts will be provided the telephone number of the appropriate clerk of court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerks of the District and Bankruptcy Courts, the chief probation officer, and other agencies within a courthouse may establish their own policies for the wearing of masks and social distancing within their space. In addition, each judge may establish the mask and social distancing policies for his or her chambers and courtroom and for events over which the judge presides.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States marshal, his deputies, and the court security officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals who do not review the screening questions, who are not wearing a mask, or who otherwise do not comply with this Order. Public Notices will be posted at the entrance to each courthouse within the Northern District consistent with the screening questions attached to this Order.

This Order supersedes General Order 20-08 and all other previous orders to the extent they are inconsistent with this Order. This Order shall remain in effect until further notice.

SO ORDERED this 21 day of September 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Timothy C. Batten, Sr.", written over a horizontal line.

TIMOTHY C. BATTEN, SR.
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

SCREENING QUESTIONS
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

WARNING: TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COURTHOUSE OCCUPANTS, YOU **MUST** NOT ENTER THE COURTHOUSE IF YOU ANSWER **YES** TO **ANY** OF THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Do you feel ill, or have you taken any medication today for the purpose of reducing a fever?
2. In the last 14 days, have you received instructions from a public health authority or private physician to self-observe, self-isolate, or self-quarantine?

For purposes of questions 3 and 4, you are “fully vaccinated for COVID-19” two weeks after receiving the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine or two weeks after receiving the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.

3. If you are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19:

- Have you or has anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
- Are you or is anyone in your household currently awaiting test results for COVID-19 due to symptoms or possible exposure?
- Within the last 14 days, have you developed symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, including but not limited to fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell?
- Within the last 14 days, have you had known close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection?

4. If you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19:

- Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
- Are you currently awaiting test results for COVID-19 due to symptoms or possible exposure?
- Do you currently have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, including but not limited to fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above), cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste or smell?

WHILE INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE:

YOU MUST WEAR A FACE-COVERING OR MASK.

TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, STAY SIX FEET AWAY FROM ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DENIED ENTRY AND/OR WILL BE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE COURTHOUSE.