

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	No. 21-mc-00001
	)	
FACE COVERINGS IN COURTHOUSES	)	GENERAL ORDER /
UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES	)	ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY
CREATED BY COVID-19 AND RELATED	)	<b>2021-14</b>
CORONAVIRUS	)	
	)	

**GENERAL ORDER**

On June 12, 2020, on behalf of the Facility Security Committees (FSCs) of the federal courthouses in Southern District of Indiana, the Court issued a General Order requiring, with limited exceptions, that all persons entering or occupying 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 vaccines have become widely available, the CDC and other public health authorities have revised their guidance on the necessity of face coverings and physical distancing. Specifically, the CDC now advises that fully vaccinated individuals can resume indoor activities without wearing a face covering and without physical distancing, except where required by other laws or rules. An individual is fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC two weeks after receiving the second dose of a two-dose vaccine series (such as Pfizer or Moderna) or two weeks after receiving a single dose vaccine (such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine).

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 fully vaccinated individuals 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.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that, **effective June 7, 2021**, and until further order of the Court,

1. Persons who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as defined by the CDC may enter and occupy public spaces of federal courthouses in the Southern District of Indiana without wearing a face covering.
2. All persons not fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC seeking entry to or occupying any federal courthouse in the Southern District of Indiana must wear a face covering which completely covers the wearer's nose and mouth in all public spaces. An exception may be made for a person providing documentation that he or she is unable, for medical reasons, to wear a face covering.
3. Any person who is not fully vaccinated and seeks entry to a courthouse without a face covering will be offered a disposable mask free of charge at the security screening checkpoint if they have a need to and are otherwise permitted to enter the courthouse.
4. Any person who is not fully vaccinated seeking entry to a courthouse who refuses to wear a face covering will be denied entry to the courthouse.
5. Upon entering space belonging to a tenant agency in a federal courthouse, all vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons must comply with the rules and requirements of that tenant agency regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
6. Upon entering courtrooms, Judges' chambers and offices, or any space where a court proceeding is being conducted (including Naturalization ceremonies), all vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons must comply with the rules and requirements of the presiding Judge regarding face coverings and physical distancing.
7. All vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons summoned for jury service and court staff interacting with such persons must wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing requirements 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.
8. 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 of June 12, 2020, on this subject and modifies any other order referencing the June 12, 2020, General Order to the extent provided herein.

SO ORDERED.

For the Court,

Date: 5/25/2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tanya Walton Pratt", is written over a horizontal line.

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