

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

IN RE: USE OF MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN COURTHOUSES DURING THE
COVID-19 PADEMIC.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2020-10

This Administrative Order is being issued in response to the continued outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Western District of Arkansas and the Governor's Executive Order 20-43 requiring the wearing of face coverings in public. Accordingly, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other health authorities and mandated by the Governor's Executive Order, the following order will be implemented in all divisions in the Western District of Arkansas in order protect the public health and reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and slow the spread of the disease:

1) All persons over the age of 10 years of age, including but not limited to court employees; visitors and parties to cases; jurors (grand and petit); witnesses; attorneys and their support staff including United States Attorneys, members of the Federal Public Defender's Office and Criminal Justice Act Panel Attorneys; United States Probation Officers; Court Security Officers; United States Marshals; all members of law enforcement; Bankruptcy Court personnel; General Services Administration personnel; maintenance and repair personnel and contractors; cleaning services; vendors; and mail delivery service persons shall wear a mask or face covering while in public or common spaces inside the Courthouse where distancing of six (6) feet or more cannot be assured, unless having received specific exception by a Court official, or unless being instructed to remove a mask or face covering by an Officer with the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, or Court Security.

2) The public or common areas of the Courthouse shall include the entrance areas, lobbies, public corridors, elevators, restrooms, stairwells, courtrooms and any other areas of the Courthouse where the public generally has access.

3) The mask or face covering must completely cover the wearer's nose and mouth.


4) The presiding judge in any court proceeding may authorize the removal of a mask or face covering during any proceeding.

5) Courthouse employees who are alone in a private office or workspace which permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons, may remove their mask or face covering while in their private workspace.

6) The United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service and Court Security Officers may deny entry to the courthouse to persons not wearing a mask or face covering. Individuals who remove their mask or face covering in violation of this Order after gaining entry to the Courthouse may be required to exit the building.

7) This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 24th day of July, 2020.



SUSAN O. HICKEY
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE