

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-10

On July 27, 2021, in response to the rise of COVID-19 cases caused by the highly contagious Delta Variant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its guidance regarding masks in public for fully vaccinated individuals. In the updated guidance, the CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals in an area of substantial or high community transmission wear a mask in public indoor settings. In light of the low vaccination rates within the Western District of Arkansas and the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, the district is considered an area of substantial or high community transmission. Accordingly, in order to help keep individuals entering the district's federal courthouses safe, the following order will be implemented in all divisions in the Western District of Arkansas:

All individuals entering a federal courthouse for the purpose of participating in or attending a proceeding involving a large number of individuals, including but not limited to jury trials (criminal and civil), venire panels, CVB proceedings, grand jury proceedings and naturalization ceremonies, must wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status, in all public areas of the courthouses.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 30th day of July, 2021.



SUSAN O. HICKEY
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE