

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

IN RE: USE OF MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS IN COURTHOUSES DURING THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC. (REVISED)

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-5**

In response to the ongoing pandemic caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), on July 24, 2020, the Court signed Administrative Order No. 2020-10 requiring individuals to wear masks or facial coverings and to physically distance when entering the Courthouses in the Western District of Arkansas. On May 13, 2021, the CDC revised its guidance regarding fully vaccinated individuals within Judiciary facilities.

Under the CDC's revised guidelines, fully vaccinated individuals may forego wearing masks or physically distancing in federal buildings except where required by Federal, State, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules or regulations. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two (2) weeks after they have received their second dose in a 2-dose series or two (2) weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine. Unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear a mask and physically distance consistent with CDC guidelines. Nothing in this guidance prohibits an individual from wearing a mask and physically distancing at any time, regardless of his/her vaccination status.

Accordingly, in response to the CDC's revised guidelines regarding wearing masks and physically distancing in federal buildings, the following order will be implemented in all divisions in the Western District of Arkansas:

1) Individuals who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 are not required to wear a mask or facial covering or to physically distance within the district's Courthouses or court occupied areas of the Courthouses. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after they have received their second dose in a 2-dose series or two (2) weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine.

2) Unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear a mask or facial covering and physically distance within the district's Courthouses or court occupied areas of the Courthouses consistent with CDC guidelines.


3) Nothing in this Order prohibits an individual from wearing a mask or facial covering and physically distancing at any time, regardless of his/her vaccination status.

4) It is within the discretion of the presiding judge in any court proceeding to require individuals to wear a mask or facial covering and to physically distance despite his/her vaccination status.

5) The Court's Administrative Order No. 2020-10 dated July 24, 2020 is hereby rescinded.

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

**IT IS SO ORDERED**, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN O. HICKEY  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE