

United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

Chicago, Illinois 60604

General Order 21-009 (AMENDED)

ORDER Regarding Masking, Vaccination, and COVID-19 Self-Certification

* Amending General Order 21-009, entered on August 13, 2021 *

* Superseding General Order 21-006 *

In response to current data regarding COVID-19 infection rates, and in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local public-health authorities, the *Federal Judiciary COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines*, and the United States Courts *Safe Return to the Workplace Handbook*,

It is hereby ORDERED that:

This order amends General Order 21-009, entered on August 13, 2021, which superseded General Order 21-006, entered on July 22, 2021.

Effective immediately, all persons seeking entry to any office, room, or facility of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit at the Dirksen United States Courthouse shall comply with the following requirements:

MASKING AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:

In accordance with Chief Judge Pallmeyer's Order dated May 26, 2021, generally applicable to areas within the Dirksen Courthouse, all persons, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a face mask in this court's public areas, including the lobby, elevator banks, public corridors, public restrooms, the Clerk's Office front desk, and the library, except as specified below.

Fully vaccinated employees¹ are not required to wear a face mask in the courtroom or in the court's nonpublic areas, including employee offices, nonpublic corridors and

¹ Persons are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine.

restrooms, and conference rooms. Judges establish the masking and social-distancing requirements for their own chambers.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS:

Vaccination Requirement for In-Person Argument: Lawyers appearing for in-person oral argument on and after October 4, 2021, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Lawyers who are not fully vaccinated must present argument telephonically or by a video-communications platform approved by the court.

To facilitate the effective administration of this requirement, all vaccinated lawyers must submit proof of vaccination not later than 14 days before the argument date. The Clerk's Office will provide instructions for submitting proof of vaccination.

After timely submitting proof of vaccination, lawyers appearing for in-person oral argument are not required to wear a face mask in the courtroom or lawyers' lounge.

Vaccination Requirement for Court Staff: All court employees must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Exemptions from the vaccination requirement will be considered for employees who cannot be vaccinated against COVID-19 because of a medical condition or a sincerely held religious conviction. Exemption requests must be submitted in writing with a specific explanation, and requests for a medical exemption must include supporting documentation from the employee's medical provider. Exemptions must be approved by the employee's supervisor, the circuit executive, and the chief judge. Employees with approved exemptions must comply with any mitigation measures established in the written notice of approval, including, but not limited to, masking, testing (by PCR test),² and social-distancing requirements.

All employees (including chambers staff) must submit proof of vaccination to Kathy O'Malley, Assistant Circuit Executive for Human Resources, not later than September 1, 2021 (if they have not already done so, either directly or through their

² The Northern District of Illinois currently conducts non-invasive COVID-19 testing in the Dirksen Courthouse through the University of Illinois SHIELD testing program. This testing service is available to employees of the court of appeals, but local funding for it expires in September. If the Administrative Office of the United States Courts does not provide funding to continue this testing service, employees with approved exemptions will be required to secure PCR testing at their own expense.

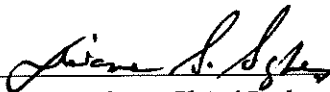
supervisor).³ Requests for a medical or religious exemption from the vaccination requirement must be submitted in writing to the employee's supervisor, the circuit executive, and the chief judge not later than September 1, 2021. New employees shall submit proof of vaccination or a written request for an exemption before reporting for work.

SELF-CERTIFICATION REGARDING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:

By entering any of this court's offices, rooms, or facilities in the Dirksen Courthouse, a person certifies that he or she:

- Has not tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days or been asked or required to self-quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19;
- Has not within the previous 14 days had known close contact with a person who has COVID-19 or with a person who has been asked or required to self-quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19; and
- Has not within the previous 14 days experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including a temperature of more than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting, or new loss of taste or smell.

For the Court:



Diane S. Sykes, Chief Judge

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 25th day of August, 2021.

³ Employees who are not yet fully vaccinated must submit proof of receipt of the first dose not later than September 1, 2021, and proof of full vaccination not later than September 30, 2021.