

MAY 26 2021

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

JAMES W. McCORMACK, CLERK
By:  _____
DEP CLERK

IN RE: COURT OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOURTEEN

The pandemic-related circumstances in the Eastern District continue to improve. Hospitalizations and infections are still trending down. www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programs-services/topics/novel-coronavirus The CDC's latest guidance reflects that fully vaccinated individuals need not wear masks or remain distant in most situations, while unvaccinated individuals should continue wearing masks and keep their distance when around others. Approximately one-third of Arkansawyers are fully vaccinated, while another ten percent are partially vaccinated. The State's vaccination efforts continue. The combined effect of the State's low vaccination rates, the variants, and the loosening of mitigation measures is uncertain. Eighty-four percent of all those who work regularly in the Eastern District of Arkansas's courthouses are fully vaccinated—an encouraging and impressive statistic. In light of the current conditions, the Court adopts the following revised COVID-19 operating procedures for the Richard Sheppard Arnold Courthouse in Little Rock, as well as for the Court's space in the Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Courthouse in Helena and in the E.C. "Took" Gathings Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Jonesboro.

- If you feel sick, do not enter the courthouse or court space.
- Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear masks in all common areas.
- If you're not fully vaccinated, you must wear a mask in all common areas.
- Each presiding Judge will decide the mask protocol in each proceeding depending upon the circumstances presented.
- Keep your distance from others.
- All distancing measures – including rearranged courtrooms and simulcasting – will remain in place.
- Extra cleaning and increased ventilation in all Court space, plus enhanced screening of potential jurors, will continue.

All the active and senior United States District Judges and United States Magistrate Judges for the Eastern District of Arkansas concur in this Administrative Order.

So Ordered.

D.P. Marshall Jr.

D.P. Marshall Jr.
Chief Judge

26 May 2021