

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER FOR ALL
CIVIL/CRIMINAL/JUVENILE CASES

Upon consideration of the Fourth Amended Administrative Order Expanding Statewide Judiciary Operations in Light of the COVID-19 Emergency entered by Chief Judge Joseph M. Getty on February 18, 2022 [hereinafter referred to as the “Chief Judge’s Order”] which states that as of March 7, 2022:

All Courts in the Maryland Judiciary, court offices, administrative offices, units of the Judiciary, the Offices of the Clerks’ of the Circuit Court and all case types in the Circuit Court shall resume full operations, including jury trials in criminal and civil cases. To the extent that Phase V matters may be handled remotely, courts are encouraged to do so. In jurisdictions with ongoing local health mandates, the Administrative Judges of the Circuit Court and the District Court located in each County or Baltimore City shall determine together whether they will require the wearing of masks, social distancing or other health measures and shall also advise the public and the members of the bar by way of Administrative Orders.

FURTHER

Whereas the COVID-19 testing positivity rate in Frederick County has decreased significantly over the last several weeks with rates now classified as low; and

Whereas the Frederick County Hospital reports a substantial drop in hospitalizations due to the COVID-19 virus, and

Whereas the undersigned has consulted with the Frederick County Health Department and the Administrative Judge of the District Court for Frederick and Washington Counties.

Now, effective March 7, 2022, it is therefore on this 28th day of February 2022, by the Circuit Court for Frederick County Maryland;

ORDERED, that the December 28, 2021 Administrative Order for the Circuit Court of Frederick County Maryland is hereby RESCINDED; and is it further

ORDERED, that as the Maryland Judiciary re-enters Phase V of the Phased Progressive Reopening Plan for the Circuit Court for Frederick County shall return to pre-COVID operations except as specifically stated herein, and it is further

ORDERED, that wearing face masks (especially surgical masks or better) remains recommended for all personnel and visitors but it is no longer mandatory in the courthouse.;

ORDERED, that physical barriers installed to remediate transmission of COVID-19 may be removed, and it is further

ORDERED, that social distancing remains recommended whenever possible but is no longer mandatory within the courthouse, and it is further

ORDERED that persons who are symptomatic, or who have tested positive for COVID-19 within 5 days prior, or who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 5 days prior and is not vaccinated, should not enter the courthouse. Clear signage shall be prominently displayed at the entrance to the courthouse with direction for any such person to remain outside and to call the number displayed, and it is further


ORDERED, that the general screening of person entering the courthouse, to include touch free temperature taking, is suspended but that the entrance security personnel shall inquire as to the health of any person displaying visible signs of illness, and it is further

ORDERED, that the use of remote hearings remains encouraged to the extent possible and at the discretion of the designated judge or magistrate, and it is further

ORDERED, that the Chief Judge's Order does not address the policy of weekly testing for unvaccinated personnel, and that policy will remain in effect until otherwise notified by the Chief Judge or the Administrative Office of the Courts, and it is further

ORDERED, that as we prepare to enter back into Phase V, all courthouse personnel are to return to work and are not to work remotely.

ALL PROVISIONS IN THE ORDER ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AS
CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE


Julie S. Solt
Administrative Judge