

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

FILED in the Middle District of North Carolina
1/28/2022 1:00 p.m.
Clerk, US District Court By: <u> </u> JSB <u> </u>

IN RE:)
RESTRICTIONS ON VISITORS) **STANDING ORDER 12**
TO COURTHOUSES) **(FIFTH AMENDED)**

ATTENTION ALL ENTRANTS

The United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina continues to monitor the outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, including directives and executive orders issued by the President of the United States and Governor of North Carolina, as well as guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In light of the spread of the variants of COVID-19 nationwide, the emerging evidence that the variants can be transmitted by vaccinated individuals who may themselves be at increased risk of contracting the virus, the fact that the counties in which this district's courthouses are located are presently areas of high transmission of the virus, and the recommendations of public health authorities, and

In order to continue to protect public health while the court continues operations,

IT IS ORDERED that all entrants to any Courthouse, combined Courthouse/Federal Facility, or U.S. Probation Office are required to wear an appropriate face mask in all public spaces, including courtrooms and security checkpoints. Counsel, parties, participants, and all others entering courtrooms shall wear face masks during court proceedings unless otherwise directed by the court. A face mask will be available for anyone who does not have one. All persons should also observe recommended social distancing and appropriate hand cleansing guidance (hand sanitizers will remain available at all facilities).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that while all attorneys and CM/ECF-registered litigants are encouraged to file documents electronically, documents may be filed by mail or by filing at the front counter in the Greensboro Courthouse during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following persons **shall not** enter any U.S. Courthouse, combined Courthouse/Federal Facility or U.S. Probation Office in the Middle District of North Carolina without prior permission from the Chief Judge or designee:

- Persons displaying symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, and who have not been tested after the onset of symptoms;
- Persons with COVID-19 in the past 5 days and who currently have symptoms that are not improving, or a fever;
- Persons who are not up to date with their vaccines (including booster doses, if eligible) for COVID-19 and within the past 5 days have had close contact with anyone with COVID-19; and
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine for COVID-19 by any doctor, hospital, or health agency.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter in violation of this Order. However, no inquiry will be made as to who is vaccinated.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that anyone scheduled or required to appear at a U.S. Courthouse, U.S. Probation Office in the Middle District of North Carolina, or tenant in a Courthouse/Federal Facility, or who otherwise desires access but is unable to appear

because of the restrictions in this Order, should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a Judge, please contact that chambers directly;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a Probation Officer, please contact the Probation Office at (336) 358-4200;
- If you are a juror, please contact the Jury Coordinator at (336) 332-6040;
- For Bankruptcy Court matters, please contact the Clerk's Office in Greensboro at (336) 358-4000 or in Winston-Salem at (336) 397-7785;
- For Section 341 Meetings of Creditors, please contact the U.S. Bankruptcy Administrator at (336) 358-4170; and
- For all other District Court matters, please contact the Clerk's Office at (336) 332-6000;
- For any tenant of the Courthouse/Federal Facility, contact the tenant's agency (contact numbers may be posted separately from this Order).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order does not restrict individual federal employers in combined Courthouse/Federal Facilities from setting their own additional guidance for their own employees and for anyone within their own workspaces.

These restrictions will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove or modify them.

Persons who believe they may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus should

contact their healthcare provider immediately.

This Order supersedes the prior Standing Order 12 (Fourth Amended) and shall be updated as further guidance is received.

This the 28th day of January, 2022.

/s/ Thomas D. Schroeder
Thomas D. Schroeder, Chief Judge
United States District Court