

United States District Court
for the District of Columbia
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Chambers of
Beryl A. Howell
Chief Judge

Telephone (202) 354-3450
Facsimile (202) 354-3452

Expanded Public Access to District Court Proceedings
July 15, 2021

Chief Judge Howell today issued Standing Order No. 21-42, providing expanded public access to District Court proceedings and outlining updated access and masking protocols for the E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse and the William B. Bryant Annex (collectively “the Courthouse”). *See In Re Updated Access Restrictions and Masking Protocols During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 21-42 (BAH) (July 15, 2021), available at <https://www.dcd.circdc.dcn/coronavirus-covid-19-response-information-and-announcements>.

Access to Courthouse: Access to the Courthouse is restricted to judges, court staff, other government employees working in the Courthouse, jurors, members of the media, attorneys, parties, and other authorized individuals with official business before the courts or authorized to use the courthouse cafeteria, as well as limited members of the public, who may enter as space permits to observe trials and other proceedings before the District Court.

Mask and Social Distancing Requirements:

- **Public Areas of the Courthouse:** All persons in any public area of the Courthouse must wear a mask or face covering and maintain social distancing. Any visitor seeking entry to the Courthouse without an appropriate mask will be provided a mask by the Court.
- **Non-Public Areas of the Courthouse:** Fully-vaccinated individuals, including Courthouse staff and persons authorized to use non-public areas in the Courthouse, are not required to wear a face covering or mask while in non-public areas. Persons who are not fully vaccinated must wear a face covering or mask and maintain social distancing
- **District Court Proceedings:** A presiding judge has discretion to permit participants in a District Court proceeding and others in the courtroom, regardless of vaccination status, to remove their masks while in the courtroom.

Continuing Health Precautions: Any person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, asked to self-quarantine, or is experiencing possible symptoms should not enter the Courthouse. Instead, please call the appropriate office for assistance:

Court of Appeals Clerk’s Office 202.216.7300
District & Bankruptcy Courts Clerk’s Office 202.354.3120
District Court Jury Office 202.354.3360
U.S. Probation Office 202.565.1300
Pretrial Services Agency 202.442.1000
Circuit Executive’s Office 202.216.7340

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