

FILED

JUL 30 2021

**Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy
Courts for the District of Columbia**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN RE: REINSTATEMENT OF MASK
REQUIREMENT FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS
IN PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC AREAS OF
COURTHOUSE

Standing Order No. 21-45 (BAH)

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

ORDER

On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated public health recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals in light of the increased circulation of the Delta variant of the coronavirus within the United States. *Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People*, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (last updated July 28, 2021).¹ The CDC added a recommendation that fully vaccinated individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas with “substantial or high transmission.” *Id.* The CDC noted that “some infections do occur among fully vaccinated people” and that “[f]ully vaccinated people who do become infected with the Delta variant can transmit it to others,” concluding that “fully vaccinated people can further reduce their risk of becoming infected with the Delta variant and transmitting it to others by wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission.” *Id.*

Currently, the rate of transmission in the District of Columbia is considered “substantial.”² On July 29, 2021, District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser reimposed an indoor mask mandate for all persons, regardless of vaccination status, effective July 31, 2021.³

¹ This webpage is available at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html.

² *COVID Data Tracker: COVID-19 Integrated County View*, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> (select “District of Columbia”) (last visited July 30, 2021).

³ Mayor’s Order 2021-097, *Resumption of Mask Requirements and Delegations of Authority to the Department of Health and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education* (July 29, 2021), https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page_content/attachments/Mayors-Order-2021-097.pdf

Accordingly, in light of current circumstances, it is hereby

ORDERED, effective July 30, 2021, that

1. All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face mask, which must completely cover the nose and mouth, at all times while in the public and non-public areas of the E. Barrett Prettyman United States Courthouse and the William B. Bryant Annex (the “Courthouse”);
2. A Judge may permit staff and visitors to remove their masks while within the Judge’s chambers. A presiding Judge may permit a participant in a court proceeding to remove a mask while in the courtroom.
3. Paragraph 5 of *In Re: Updated Access Restrictions and Masking Protocols During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Standing Order No. 21-42 (BAH) (July 15, 2021), which permitted fully vaccinated individuals to remove their masks in non-public areas of the Courthouse, is superseded; and it is further

ORDERED that this general mask mandate for public and non-public areas of the Courthouse will remain in place until further order of the Court.

SO ORDERED.

Date: July 30, 2021



Beryl A. Howell

BERYL A. HOWELL
Chief Judge