

**THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-04
COURT OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC
(8/16/21)**

On May 12, 2020, the Court entered Administrative Order 2020-02, adopting a phased approach to returning the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit to full capacity. Pursuant to Administrative Order 2020-02, and after consulting with public health officials and reviewing local public health data, the Court has determined that operations in the Government Plaza Courthouse should proceed pursuant to a modified Phase Three as set out below:

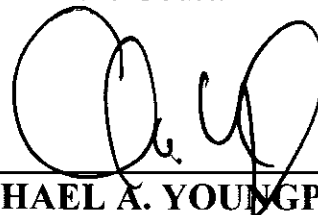
PHASE THREE

1. In-person proceedings permitted, but social distancing requirements must be followed at all times. For most courtrooms, this means than no more than twenty (20) persons in court, not including staff.
2. Limited jail inmates in court. No more than one inmate may be present in court at a time, and no inmates or corrections officers who are Covid-19 positive (or suspected positive) may be present in court.
3. To regulate and control the flow of persons in the Courthouse, the circuit and district judges operating in the Courthouse will follow a schedule coordinating the activities on each floor of the Courthouse and throughout the Courthouse.
4. Jury trials are suspended until October 4, 2020. The Court will continue to monitor local public health data and consult with public health officials to determine when jury trials may safely resume.
5. Videoconferencing/teleconferencing is strongly encouraged if appropriate, efficient and practicable.
6. Teleworking is encouraged when feasible and practicable. Employees are not to report to work if they are sick, exhibit any of the symptoms of Covid-19, or have had close contact within 10 days with someone who has been diagnosed with Covid-19. If not fully vaccinated, anyone who was exposed to a Covid-positive individual must quarantine for a period of ten (10) days. Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if exposed to a Covid-positive individual unless they experience Covid symptoms.

7. All persons entering the Courthouse for Courthouse business or proceedings, including attorneys, parties, witnesses, members of the public, court officers, clerks, employees, judges and staff, shall comply with the “Measures to Mitigate the Spread of Covid-19” appended hereto as Appendix “A.” Notably, social distancing and masking is required for ALL persons entering the Courthouse, except that judges are granted the discretion to allow for the temporary removal of masks during certain courtroom proceedings (e.g., a testifying witness, an attorney examining a witness, a judge speaking behind plexiglass) to the extent that the required social distancing can be maintained and said temporary removal otherwise can be done safely). The wearing of masks in private office spaces of the Courthouse will be under the control of the judge or supervisor in each office.

This Order shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

Done this 16th day of August 2021



MICHAEL A. YOUNGPETER
Presiding Circuit Judge