

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

IN RE:)
COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS)
DUE TO COVID-19 RESPONSE)

ORDER

WHEREAS this Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice within the Courthouses of this District during this period of national emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby adopts the following Order:

Any prior Orders or statements regarding entry into the courthouses of this District by this Court are rescinded as of March 15, 2021, and are replaced with the following Order:

1. This Order is effective March 15, 2021, for all federal courthouses in the Eastern District of Missouri;
2. Public entry to all federal courthouses in the Eastern District is open, subject to the restrictions set forth in this Order;
3. All persons within all courthouses shall observe social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person) except when necessary for the conduct of business as directed by a judge, agency head, or designee of a judge or agency head. A judge, agency head, or designee of any agency may enforce limits on the number of persons within any portion of their designated courthouse space consistent with social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person), or otherwise regulate the spacing and flow of persons, as deemed necessary by the judge or agency without further Order of this Court, in order to preserve public safety and health.

4. This Court and General Services Administration will create and publish occupancy standards for all elevators in all courthouses and may modify the elevator standards without further Order of this Court. All persons shall be required to follow elevator occupancy standards.

5. In order to be admitted beyond the main lobby of the courthouses, all persons must:

a. Verify upon request to a Court Security Officer that they have:

i. Not been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last two weeks;

ii. Not been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks; and

iii. No fever, cough, or shortness of breath. For purposes of building entry, fever may be monitored by automated thermometers at entries to the courthouses. Persons may be admitted if their temperature is not at or above 100 degrees on the automated thermometer; and

b. Wear a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth when in any common area of any Courthouse within this District.

6. Anyone who cannot enter or is unwilling to enter any courthouse in violation of the protocols in subsection 5 will be referred by a Court Security Officer to the court or agency with whom the person has business, in the manner directed by the court or agency.

7. Persons who, for public health and safety reasons, do not wish to enter the Courthouse or seek to minimize their time at the Courthouse, may still access the services of the courts and agencies in this Courthouse. Each court and agency shall also furnish in the main

lobby of the courthouses of this district, and on their respective websites, and to the Court Security Officers, information and remote services to enable the public to access the services of that court or agency in the manner directed by the court or agency and as authorized by law. Such information may include but is not limited to drop boxes for paper filing; remote filing and payment options; telephone and e-mail contact information during business hours and non-business hours; and, web address information. A current list of the information referenced in this subsection is attached [here](#) and may be amended by each agency without further Order of this Court. This list shall be posted and made available to the public in the main lobby of the courthouses within this district.

SO ORDERED this 8th day of March, 2021.


Rodney W. Sippel
Chief United States District Judge