

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT (IL)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021 - 17

Order Amending, Modifying and Loosening 11th Judicial Circuit COVID-19 Restrictions, Protocols and Procedures

This Administrative Order amends and modifies Administrative Order 2020-19 and its supplements as well as other Covid-19 pandemic related policies and procedures. Supplement #3 to Administrative Order 2020-19 remains in effect without change until further order of Court.

Whereas, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, by way of Chief Judge Mark A. Fellheimer, entered a series of Administrative Orders in response to the global Covid-19 pandemic;

Whereas, the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court will continue to take all reasonable measures and precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 coronavirus;

Whereas, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) routinely updates its guidelines and recommendations in response to, and to prevent the spread of, the Covid-19 coronavirus;

Whereas, the Illinois Supreme Court amended M.R. 30370 on May 27, 2021 regarding policies and procedures related to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, after consultation/input with and from various local justice partners/local stake holders and upon guidance received from, but not limited to, the Illinois Supreme Court and others and in light of the most recent CDC recommendations , it is necessary and appropriate to make changes to court operations taking access to justice and public safety into account.

Wherefore, the undersigned, as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, does hereby order as follows:

1. **Entry to Court Facilities.** Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court M.R. 30370 entered May 27, 2021, no individual may enter any courthouse/law and justice center or court facility (including an arbitration center) if they:
 - a. Have new flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath (excluding such symptoms caused by any chronic conditions); or
 - b. Currently have been directed to quarantine or isolate at home by any medical provider or public health official; or
 - c. Reside or have regular close contact with a person currently subject to a quarantine or isolation directive issued by a medical provider or public health official **and are not themselves fully vaccinated.**

Nothing herein imposes any limitation upon any Sheriff within the Eleventh Judicial Circuit to impose additional screening measures as appropriate as determined by the Sheriff.

2. **Expanded In-Person Court Proceedings and Continued Loosening of Limitations.** In-person access to courthouses/law and justice centers and court facilities is now encouraged with the limitations set forth below. Each courthouse and courtroom are different and will have the schedule approved by its respective judge who has been directed by the undersigned to encourage in-person hearings where feasible. Remote hearings are still acceptable and permitted where feasible as approved by the respective judge presiding over the case, but no judge is mandated to hold a remote hearing. The goal is to increase in-person access in the courtroom and their environs with safety precautions outlined in this order.
3. **Absence Due to Illness, Quarantine or Isolation.** If any person is unable to attend a court proceeding due to any of the restrictions outlined above in #1, individuals are strongly encouraged to contact their attorney, or in the absence of an attorney, call the appropriate office of the Circuit Clerk to report their situation and for instructions on how to proceed:
 - a. Ford 217-379-9420 <http://fordcounty.illinois.gov/circuit-clerk/>
 - b. Livingston 815-844-2602 <https://www.livingstoncounty-il.org/wordpress/county-services/circuit-clerk/>
 - c. Logan 217-732-1163 <https://www.logancountyil.gov/>
 - d. McLean 309-888-5301 <https://www.mcleancountyil.gov/80/Circuit-Clerk>
 - e. Woodford 309-467-3312 www.woodford-county.org/154/Clerk-of-the-Circuit-Court

Jurors. If a juror is unable to serve as a juror due to any of the restrictions outlined above in #1 or due to any other Covid-19 issue, they should contact the Jury Commissioner in their respective county at the phone number listed in the jury summons they were given for further guidance.

4. **Mask or Face Covering.** All court staff, attorneys and members of the public must wear a mask or face covering **if they are NOT fully vaccinated** while within any courthouse/law and justice center or court facility. Failure to wear an appropriate mask or face covering may lead to removal from the building.

These provisions do not apply to any individual who is under age 2, incapacitated, having trouble breathing (if not precluded from entering the building pursuant to #1 above), unable to remove the mask without assistance, **or fully vaccinated****.

****Fully vaccinated means:**

- 2 weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, **or**
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

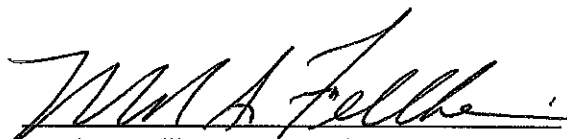
Any person may choose to wear a mask or facial covering regardless of his/her vaccination status, but persons required to speak during a court proceeding may be directed to remove a mask or facial covering when speaking.

The Court will not routinely screen persons in the courthouse to determine their vaccination status, but reserves the right to inquire as to any person's vaccination status and/or to require proof thereof.

5. **Social Distancing.** Within all court facilities, all persons, shall maintain appropriate social distancing as is recommended by the CDC or the local county health department. All court staff shall monitor and proactively enforce compliance with social distancing requirements.
6. The Resident Circuit Judge of Ford, Livingston, Woodford and Logan counties may use their own discretion with reference to court operations in their respective county.

This Order is effective June 11, 2021.

Entered this 10th day of June 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Fellheimer', written over a horizontal line.

Mark A. Fellheimer, Chief Judge
Eleventh Judicial Circuit