

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

**COURT OPERATIONS DURING  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**DISTRICT COURT GENERAL ORDER  
2021-6**

This order supersedes General Orders 2021-5, 2021-3, and 2020-10.

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued new recommendations for fully vaccinated persons;

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends that fully vaccinated persons do not need to wear a mask or to socially distance themselves from others, but that unvaccinated persons should continue to wear masks and to socially distance themselves for their own protection and for the protection of other unvaccinated persons;

WHEREAS, this Court continues to evaluate its response to the COVID-19 pandemic while effectively administering justice; it is hereby

ORDERED that the following persons shall not enter any courthouses or U.S. Probation Offices of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado:

1. Persons who have recently been diagnosed with or are currently experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, including a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or loss of sense of smell;
2. Unvaccinated persons who have had close contact in the last 14 days with any person who has been diagnosed within the last month with COVID-19; and
3. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency.

What to do if you are denied access to a District of Colorado Courthouse or Courtroom:

1. If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney;
2. If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the chambers of the presiding judge;
3. If you are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services Officer or a Probation Officer, please contact the Probation Office at (303) 844-5424;
4. If you are a juror or prospective juror, please contact the Jury Department at (303) 844-3924; and
5. For other District Court matters, please contact the Clerk’s Office of the U.S. District Court at (303) 844-3433. It is further

ORDERED that, beginning June 8, 2021 and continuing until further order, non-employee entrants to the courthouses and U.S. Probation Offices of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado who are fully vaccinated, which is defined as 14 days after the

second dose in a two-dose series or 14 days after receiving a single-dose vaccine, shall not be required to wear a mask or to socially distance themselves (unless they are jurors involved in the jury selections process, in which case the Jury Trial Protocols apply to them). Unvaccinated persons are required to wear a mask or face covering that covers the user's nose and mouth when entering the courthouses and at all times within the courthouses, including common areas, elevators, hallways, stairwells, courtrooms, witness waiting rooms, and bathrooms. Unvaccinated non-employee entrants are required to maintain three feet of distance between themselves and other people within the courthouses, including in the locations noted above. Non-employee entrants include attorneys and their support personnel, jurors, witnesses, case agents, spectators or family members for trials or hearings, members of the press, persons being supervised by the U.S. Probation Office, litigants, contractors, vendors, and delivery persons. The presiding judicial officer may permit, at his or her discretion, unvaccinated witnesses to remove their masks for purpose of identification during a hearing or trial and may permit unvaccinated attorneys to do so for limited purposes. Unvaccinated non-employee entrants should bring their own masks; however, masks will be provided to unvaccinated jurors, witnesses, litigants, persons being supervised by the U.S. Probation Office, or family members and spectators if they do not have a mask. The U.S. Marshals and court security officers are authorized to enforce these requirements. It is further

ORDERED that, beginning June 8, 2021 and continuing until further order, court employees and interns who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks or to socially distance themselves while in the courthouse. Court employees and interns who are not fully vaccinated shall wear masks upon entry to the courthouses and in common areas, including elevators, hallways, stairwells, courtrooms, and bathrooms. Such employees and interns are required to maintain three feet of distance between themselves and other people within the courthouses. Masks may be removed in an unvaccinated employee's work area if such employee works in a private office or if his or her supervisor has concluded that the unvaccinated employee's office space has sufficient distance from other occupied work areas. It is further

ORDERED that, effective immediately, all civil and criminal trials scheduled to commence in Denver in June 2021 remain subject to the pilot trial designations and will also be subject to the revised Jury Trial Protocols. Beginning with trials set in July 2021, the pilot trial program will end, and civil and criminal trials will proceed at the discretion of the assigned judicial officer, subject to the revised Jury Trial Protocols. It is further

ORDERED that no civil or criminal trial requiring a jury of 10 or more jurors (including alternate jurors) shall be held in the Wayne Aspinall Courthouse or the courtroom in Colorado Springs, subject to the orders of the presiding judicial officer in each case. Parties may request that the presiding judge determine whether a non-jury trial or trial to a jury of less than 10 may safely proceed in the Courthouse. If so, such trials may proceed in accordance with social distancing and other appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all participants. It is further

ORDERED that initial appearances on indictments, complaints, and supervised release petitions, as well as detention hearings and preliminary hearings, will take place in person unless pandemic-related lockdowns or similar circumstances prevent a defendant from being able to

appear in person. If an unvaccinated defendant requests to appear remotely for one of the above-mentioned hearings under the CARES Act, the assigned judicial officer may, at his or her discretion, allow that defendant to appear remotely. Family members of defendants, victims (as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3771 (2018)), media, and members of the public may attend in person hearings, consistent with the mask and social distance requirements of this order. Such persons may attend video teleconference hearings through telephonic access by contacting the Clerk's Office (303-844-3433) in advance of the hearing to obtain the dial-in information. All persons participating in a court proceeding remotely by telephone are prohibited, under penalty of contempt, from recording or broadcasting the proceeding in any manner. All other hearings will take place in person or remotely at the discretion of the judicial officer as allowed, in the case of criminal hearings, by the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and/or the CARES Act. It is further

ORDERED that fully vaccinated members of a grand jury, as well as fully vaccinated attorneys, witnesses, grand jury coordinators, court reporters, and others appearing before or interacting with the grand jurors in the courthouses are not required to wear masks or to socially distance. Unvaccinated grand jurors, attorneys, witnesses, grand jury coordinators, court reporters, and others appearing before or interacting with the grand jurors in the courthouses are required to wear masks and to maintain three feet of social distance. It is further

ORDERED that in-person Central Violations Bureau calendars may resume across the district in a manner consistent with the mask and social distance requirements of this order. It is further

ORDERED that naturalization ceremonies will proceed on a limited basis that allows for social distancing. It is further

ORDERED that public and bar-related functions may be scheduled in person in any courthouse facility in the District of Colorado subject to the mask and social distance requirements noted above.

The Court's judicial officers, at their discretion, may use more protective rules regarding mask wearing and social distancing in their courtrooms.

Dated at Denver, Colorado this 7th day of June, 2021.

**BY THE COURT**



PHILIP A. BRIMMER  
Chief United States District Judge