

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**GENERAL ORDER 20-35
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY

**GENERAL ORDER SUPERSEDING PUBLIC NOTICE
OF MARCH 12, 2020 (PUBLIC NOTICE)**

SAYLOR, C.J.

This Order supersedes General Order 20-1 (Public Notice issued March 12, 2020) concerning entry to the Courthouse. Since the issuance of that Order, the Court has consulted with epidemiologists and public-health experts to determine appropriate protocols for the conducting of proceedings in the Courthouse. In accordance with that guidance, and consistent with the General Orders that the Court has adopted since March 12, 2020, including but not limited to General Order 20-31, adopted on July 15, 2020, the Court ORDERS as follows:

1. All persons entering the Courthouse and in the public spaces of the Courthouse, including the courtrooms, shall wear masks covering their nose and mouth. The only exceptions to that requirement are (a) for a witness testifying under oath, who will testify behind a clear acrylic barrier, or (b) where a judicial officer has made a specific temporary exception that the interest of justice, balanced against the public-health risk, requires such action for reasons provided on the record.
2. All visitors entering the Courthouse (including attorneys, witnesses, parties, or members of the general public) must conduct a health self-assessment in advance of entry. A link to that health self-assessment is set forth below.

[Health Self-Assessment Link](#)

3. A person may not enter the Courthouse if he or she:

- a. has a diagnosis of COVID-19;
- b. is experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 identified in the health self-assessment;
- c. has been ordered by a public-health authority or medical professional to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19; or
- d. to his or her knowledge, has been in “close contact” with someone with COVID-19.

For these purposes, “close contact” is defined as “being within 6 feet of for at least 10-15 minutes while symptomatic or within 48 hours before symptom onset.”

If you have a scheduled appearance in the Courthouse and you may not enter for one of the reasons listed above, you should contact the clerk of the appropriate session as soon as possible.

So Ordered.

/s/ F. Dennis Saylor IV
F. Dennis Saylor IV
Chief Judge, United States District Court

Dated: September 28, 2020



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
1 COURTHOUSE WAY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210

Robert M. Farrell

CLERK OF COURT

Health Screening Self-Assessment

The court is committed to ensuring your safety and public safety during your visit to the court. Please be aware of General Order 20-1 and 20-35, instructing persons with COVID-19 symptoms to not enter the courthouse.

In the past 24 hours if you have experienced any of the following symptoms please do not visit the courthouse:

- Fever (temperature at or above 100.4)
- New loss of taste or smell
- New or worsening shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New or worsening cough
- New or worsening chills
- New or worsening muscle pain
- New or worsening sore throat
- New or worsening diarrhea or vomiting