

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

**GENERAL ORDER 21-5
JUNE 14, 2021**

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY

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

SAYLOR, C.J.

This Order supersedes District Court General Order 20-35 (issued September 28, 2020) concerning entry to the federal Courthouses in Springfield and Worcester. Since the issuance of that Order, the District Court has continued to consult with epidemiologists and public-health experts to determine appropriate protocols for conducting proceedings in the Courthouse. In accordance with that guidance, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. This Order shall take effect June 14, 2021.
2. All persons entering the Courthouse and in the public spaces of the Courthouse shall wear masks covering their nose and mouth unless they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. For these purposes, the term “vaccinated” shall mean having received both doses of the vaccine (if the vaccine involves two doses) and having waited a period of two weeks after the final dose.
3. Any unmasked entrant to the Courthouse or in the public spaces of the Courthouse should be prepared to show proof of vaccination status in the form of a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, a photograph of such a card, or other suitable medical documentation.

4. The only exception to that requirement is 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.

5. All persons 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](#)

6. 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. if not vaccinated, 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.

7. The United States District Court and United States Bankruptcy Court may issue separate orders for the conduct of proceedings in courtrooms and other areas under their respective jurisdictions.

So Ordered.

/s/ F. Dennis Saylor IV
F. Dennis Saylor IV
Chief Judge, United States District Court for
the District of Massachusetts

/s/ Timothy S. Hillman
Timothy S. Hillman
United States District Judge

/s/ Mark G. Mastroianni
Mark G. Mastroianni
United States District Judge

Dated: June 14, 2021