

Chief Judge  
Colleen McMahon

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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IN RE: CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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M10-468

THIS MATTER RELATES TO: Restrictions on Entry  
to the Courthouses

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STANDING ORDER

In the interest of public health and safety, and after consideration of public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State, New York City, Westchester County, and other public health authorities, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York hereby orders that, effective immediately and until this order is rescinded,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons may not enter any courthouse in the Southern District of New York:

- Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19, or been told by a health-care provider to assume they have COVID-19 due to symptoms or other factors, in the past 14 days.
- Persons who have been tested for COVID-19, and are awaiting their test results.
- Persons who have experienced symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 14 days that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea.
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 14 days with anyone with COVID-19 during the time period starting 48 hours before the onset of the infected person's symptoms or positive COVID-19 test. (Note: "close contact" is defined as less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period.)
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 14 days with anyone experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by

allergies or an underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea. (Note: “close contact” is defined as less than 6 feet apart for more than 15 cumulative minutes in a 24-hour period.)

- Persons who live with someone who has been instructed to quarantine in the past 14 days due to close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.
- Persons who have been on a cruise ship or river voyage in the past 14 days.
- Persons who have traveled in the past 14 days from: (1) a state that is noncontiguous to New York; (2) a US territory; or (3) a CDC Level 2 or higher country, unless proof of compliance with the Court’s test-out protocol has been provided. The Court’s test-out protocol can be accessed at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/2020-11/Entry%20Protocol%20for%20Domestic%20Travelers%2011-20.pdf>.
- Persons who have attended a non-essential gathering of greater than ten individuals for any reason in the past 14 days, including but not limited to parties, celebrations or other social events.
- Persons who have been released from a federal, state or local jail, prison or other correctional institution within the last 14 days, except those who are reporting to be fit with a location monitoring device.
- Persons who do not meet the criteria for entry as determined by the SDNY COVID-19 entry questionnaire, which can be accessed at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>.

**Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.**

Anyone who has business in one of the courthouses of the Southern District of New York, but who cannot enter because of this order, should do the following:

- Persons who are represented by an attorney should contact their attorney;
- Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before a judge should contact the judge’s chambers directly (contact information may be found in the Judges’ Individual Practices on the court’s public web page);
- Persons who are scheduled to meet with a Pretrial Services Officer should contact the Office of Pretrial Services at (212) 805-4300;

- Persons who are scheduled to meet with a Probation Officer should contact the Probation Office at (212) 805-0040;
- Jurors should contact the Jury Department at (212) 805-0179;
- Employees reporting to work at the courthouse should contact their supervisor;
- Persons having any other business with the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York should contact the Clerk of Court at (212) 805-0140;
- Persons having business with the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit should contact Catherine Wolfe, Clerk of Court, at (646) 584-2696;
- Persons having business with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York should contact Bankruptcy Court Services at (212) 284-4040;
- For all other matters, please contact the District Executive's Office at (212) 805-0500.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that every visitor who comes to one of the courthouses of the Southern District of New York for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process:

- Have their temperature taken, using a contactless thermometer. A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
- Answer screening questions about COVID-19 status and possible recent COVID-19 exposure. A person whose answers indicate that they are at increased risk of being contagious with COVID-19 will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
- Wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. Bandannas and gaiters are not permitted. If a person does not have a mask, a screener will provide one.
- Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at all courthouse entrances.
- Place items that need to be screened through an x-ray machine in a single-use plastic bag, which will be discarded after each use. Court staff will not handle personal belongings.
- Place any electronic device that must be checked in a single-use plastic bag that will be handed to a Court Security Officer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that while in the courthouse, all persons must comply with the following rules:

- **Face Coverings:** You must wear an approved mask that covers your nose and mouth in all public areas of the courthouse (including hallways, public counters, elevators and courtrooms.) You must also wear a mask in all shared space/common areas where more than one person is assigned to work unless an SDNY staff member has granted you permission to remove your mask. You must also wear masks any time you are interacting with any other person(s) regardless of social distancing.
- **Social Distancing:** You must adhere to safe social distancing rules, by standing or sitting at least six feet away from other individuals. You must abide by markings on floors and benches indicating where you may stand or sit. If you are standing in line, you must keep six feet away from the person in front of you and behind you, unless you are taking care of a small child or assisting someone with special needs. Elevator capacity will be limited as posted. All elevator occupants must wear masks.
- **Instructional Signage:** You must abide by all health and hygiene signage throughout the courthouses, including signage regarding masks, social distancing, occupancy restrictions, and hand washing.

Anyone who fails or refuses to abide by these rules will be required to leave the courthouse immediately.

This order supersedes and replaces the Standing Order on Restrictions to Entry to Courthouses that was entered on January 29, 2021, and will remain in place until further notice.

People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

ENTERED this 2nd day of February, 2021, at New York, New York



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COLLEEN McMAHON  
Chief United States District Judge