

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

IN RE:)
COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS)
DUE TO COVID-19 RESPONSE)

ORDER

WHEREAS this Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice within the Courthouses of this District during this period of national emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby adopts the following Order:

This Court's prior Order re. Courthouse Operations [Dated September 15, 2020](#) and any subsequent Orders or statements regarding entry into the courthouses of this District are rescinded, and are replaced with the following Order:

1. Public entry to all federal courthouses in the Eastern District shall be restricted to the main lobby on the first floor, except as specified in this Order so as to allow the Courts and agencies within these courthouses to meet their constitutional duties and handle emergencies related to public safety, public health and welfare, and individual liberty;

2. All Courts and agencies within the courthouses of this district are open for remote business or by specific appointment. Persons attending a scheduled in-person proceeding may enter beyond the main lobby of the courthouses of this district. Other persons may enter with permission from a judge of this district or from the head or designee of any agency housed in the courthouses.

3. All persons within all courthouses shall observe social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person) except when necessary for the conduct of business as directed by a judge,

agency head, or designee of a judge or agency head. A judge, agency head, or designee of any agency may enforce limits on the number of persons within any portion of their designated courthouse space consistent with social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person), or otherwise regulate the spacing and flow of persons, as deemed necessary by the judge or agency without further Order of this Court, in order to preserve public safety and health.

4. This Court and General Services Administration will create and publish occupancy standards for all elevators in all courthouses and may modify the elevator standards without further Order of this Court. All persons shall be required to follow elevator occupancy standards.

5. In order to be admitted beyond the main lobby of the courthouses, all persons must:

- a. Verify upon request to a Court Security Officer that they have:
 - i. Not been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last two weeks;
 - ii. Not been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks;
 - iii. Not taken a test for COVID-19 for which a result is still pending;
 - iv. Not traveled outside the United States for the last 14 days; and
 - v. No fever, cough, or shortness of breath. For purposes of building entry, fever may be monitored by automated thermometers at entries to the courthouses. Persons may be admitted if their temperature is not at or above 100 degrees on the automated thermometer;

b. Confirm that they will notify the Court or agency with whom they have business if they exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms within 14 days of the visit; and

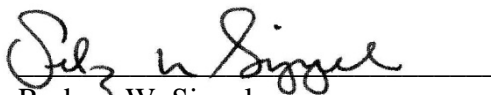
c. Wear a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth when in any common area of any courthouse within this district.

6. Anyone who cannot enter or is unwilling to enter any courthouse in violation of the protocols in subsection 5 will be referred by a Court Security Officer to the court or agency with whom the person has business, in the manner directed by the Court or agency.

7. Persons who, for public health and safety reasons, do not wish to enter the lobby of the courthouses or seek to minimize their time at the courthouses, may still access the services of the courts and agencies in the courthouses. Each court and agency shall also furnish in the main lobby of the courthouses of this district, and on their respective websites, and to the Court Security Officers, information and remote services to enable the public to access the services of that Court or agency in the manner directed by the Court or agency and as authorized by law. Such information may include but is not limited to drop boxes for paper filing; remote filing and payment options; telephone and e-mail contact information during business hours and non-business hours; and, web address information. A current list of the information referenced in this subsection is attached to this Order and may be amended by each agency without further Order of this Court. This list shall be posted and made available to the public in the main lobby of the courthouses within this district.

8. This order expires on December 31, 2020 or upon subsequent Order of this Court.

SO ORDERED this 24th day of November, 2020.


Rodney W. Sippel
Chief United States District Judge