

**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:

1. Any prior Orders or statements regarding entry into the courthouses of this District by this Court are rescinded and are replaced with the following Order effective immediately for all federal courthouses in the Eastern District of Missouri;
2. Public entry to all federal courthouses in the Eastern District is open, subject to the restrictions set forth in this Order;
3. Persons should not enter the courthouses if they have:
 - i. Been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last ten days;
 - ii. Been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last ten days, except that vaccinated persons may still be allowed entry even if they have had contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 provided they do not have the symptoms listed in subparagraph iii below; or

iii. A fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Automated thermometers are available for persons to use at entries to the courthouses; and

4. Persons having any of the symptoms described in paragraph 3 should contact the Court or agency with whom they are doing business to determine how to accommodate their needs in the manner directed by the Court or agency. Remote business options may be available as described in paragraph 8 below;

5. Wearing a mask or face covering over the nose and mouth is not required, but is recommended, especially for unvaccinated persons and persons for whom COVID-19 and its variants pose an elevated health risk;

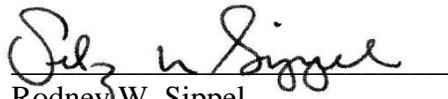
6. An agency head, a judge presiding in a case, or a designee of the agency head or judge, may create their own standards regarding social distancing and masking within any portion of their designated courthouse space, or otherwise regulate the spacing and flow of persons, as deemed necessary by the judge or agency without further Order of this Court;

7. This Court and General Services Administration will create and publish information regarding the occupancy standards set forth in this Order;

8. Persons who, for public health and safety reasons, do not wish to enter the courthouses or seek to minimize their time at the courthouses, may still access the services of the courts and agencies in this courthouse. 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 [here](#) 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.

SO ORDERED this 28th day of February, 2022.


Rodney W. Sippel
Chief United States District Judge