

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Administrative Order

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control has determined that Montgomery County, MD has reached the COVID-19 transmission status of “substantial”; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2021, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera of the Court of Appeals of Maryland issued Administrative Orders, effective August 9, 2021, clarifying health measures to be followed by all courts in the State of Maryland when the CDC determines that the county in which the court sits has reached the “substantial” transmission status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, effective Monday, August 9, 2021, at 12:00 am, I, James A. Bonifant, Administrative Judge for the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD, do hereby order this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021 that:

- 1) All matters before the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD, including trials (jury and non-jury), grand jury proceedings (currently convened and new grand juries), hearings and conferences, shall proceed as scheduled subject to the following health measures, which shall be observed; and
- 2) Consistent with Center for Disease Control guidelines, and the CDC’s determination that Montgomery County, MD has reached the COVID-19 transmission status of “substantial”, all individuals while in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD shall wear a face mask at all times regardless of vaccination status; such measure shall remain in place until Montgomery County, MD achieves a transmission status of “moderate” or “low” for fourteen consecutive days; and
- 3) Any person, including Judiciary personnel regardless of vaccination status, who seeks entrance to courts and judicial facilities shall be: (1) subject to COVID-19 screening questions; and (2) subject to non-contact temperature checks where available; and
- 4) Any person may be denied entrance to or required to leave a court or judicial facility as a result of the screening process or as a result of refusing to comply

with the requirements to wear a face mask or maintain social distancing as required; if denied access, as a result of the screening process, such person shall be provided information regarding alternative means to address the purpose of that person's intended visit to the court; and

5) If anyone refuses to comply with the requirements to wear a face mask, or maintain social distancing, such person shall immediately leave the courthouse;

6) During this period of "substantial" transmission status, while in the courthouse:

All individuals over the age of 2 shall always wear masks;

Masks shall cover nose, mouth, and chin completely without vents;

Social distancing of 6 feet shall be maintained;

Clear personal barrier shields are not a substitute for masking; and

While maintaining social distancing, masks may be lowered to eat, drink, or take oral or nasal medication; and

7) For in-person court proceedings:

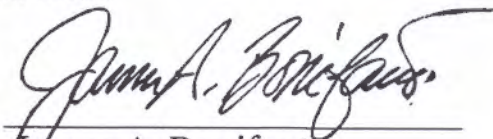
A presiding judge or magistrate may permit a trial or hearing participant to wear a clear mask or personal barrier shield in lieu of a mask for a limited duration to ensure the participant can be heard or observed; and

8) For Judiciary personnel assigned to single-occupancy enclosed offices:

If fully vaccinated, personnel may lower masks when alone and the office door is closed, but masks shall be worn if someone enters the office; and

9) For Judiciary personnel assigned to common area workspaces:

Masks shall be worn.



James A. Bonifant,  
Administrative Judge,  
Circuit Court for Montgomery County, MD