

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TYLER DIVISION**

STANDING ORDER NO. 6:20-01

COURT OPERATIONS DURING NATIONAL PANDEMIC

The court orders the following measures for the William M. Steger Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Tyler, Texas, (the Courthouse) to protect public health during the COVID-19 pandemic. This order shall remain in effect until further order of the court.

1. Access to the Courthouse

1.1. General exclusions from entry

For the protection of court employees, litigants, attorneys, and observers, the following persons shall not enter the Courthouse:

- (a) Any person who has, within the past 14 days, been in a foreign country from which travel is restricted by Presidential proclamation due to transmission of COVID-19 there. Currently, those countries are:
- China
 - Iran
 - The European Schengen area (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City)
 - United Kingdom
 - Republic of Ireland
 - Brazil

See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Travelers Prohibited from Entry to United States, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>.

- (b) Any person who (i) has tested positive for or has been diagnosed as having COVID-19 and (ii) cannot present a physician's written verification that the person is currently not contagious.
- (c) Any person who is under the direction of a licensed healthcare professional or public-health agency to self-quarantine.

- (d) Any person who exhibits or reports having a fever, persistent cough, shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, nausea, new loss of taste or smell, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- (e) Any person who lives in the same house or facility with, or is a caretaker for, a person who is in categories (a)-(d) above. Absent an order from the presiding judge, this category includes any litigant who is detained in the same facility as another detainee who is in categories (a)-(d) above.

1.2. Additional exclusion from entry for jury service

A person reporting for jury service shall not enter the Courthouse if the person's temperature as measured at an entrance by a non-contact thermometer is at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

1.3. Courtroom access

To ensure proper distancing and for the protection of court participants, the U.S. Marshals' Service may restrict the number of visitors in a courtroom for a proceeding, at the direction of the presiding judge.

2. Conduct within the Courthouse

Upon entry into the Courthouse, all persons must comply with the following requirements:

2.1. Face masks in common areas

While in any **common area** of the Courthouse, a person is encouraged to wear a face mask or face covering that completely covers the person's nose and mouth. This does not apply to persons under age two or persons who have trouble breathing or are unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

Common areas are those open to the public during all business hours, including entryways, hallways, elevators, stairwells, public restrooms, and the jury-assembly room.

2.2. Face masks in other areas

Nothing in this order prohibits a presiding judge or office supervisor from requiring participants in a court proceeding or workers in a relevant office to wear face masks or coverings.

2.3. Physical distancing

While in **common areas** of the Courthouse, each person must maintain at least six feet of physical distance from other persons when possible, unless otherwise directed by a law-enforcement officer, Court Security Officer, or court official.

A presiding judge or office supervisor may require participants in a court proceeding or workers in an office to maintain physical distancing.

3. Enforcement

A Court Security Officer at each public entrance to the Courthouse shall enforce **Item 1.1**'s entry exclusions by questioning and observation. All Court Security Officers, following any administrative guidance from the United States Marshal, shall deny presence in the Courthouse to anyone seeking to enter or remain in violation of this order.

Any temperature screening will be conducted by court employees, unless that service is procured from healthcare professionals.

4. Communication

The clerk's office will develop various forms of signage expressing this order's requirements and will post the signage at the public entrances and other appropriate places in the Courthouse. After this order is signed, the clerk's office shall post copies of it in prominent locations at the Courthouse and the court's website.

5. Jury trials

The clerk's office will reassure persons summoned for jury duty about the safety measures in place. A prospective juror should generally be deferred if he or she expresses COVID-19 concerns.

No more than two jury trials should be conducted at a time in the Courthouse. At juror check-in, the clerk's office will direct proper distancing procedures. Individual judges will determine how to seat prospective jurors for jury selection in a particular proceeding.

Microphones will not be passed between individual venire members, as in the past. The court will explore disinfecting a microphone before it is passed or offering a boom microphone at a safe distance. Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes shall be liberally placed in the Courthouse.

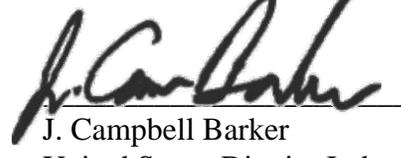
6. Contact instructions

If a person is scheduled or required to appear in the Courthouse while this order is in effect and is unable to gain entry because of the restrictions in this order, the person should proceed as follows:

- Contact the person's attorney, if any.
- If the person is an attorney scheduled to appear in court, contact the judge's chambers by phone, and if necessary, follow up by email.
- If the person is scheduled to meet with a Probation or Pretrial Services Officer, contact the Probation and Pretrial Services Office directly for guidance and instructions.
- For any other Courthouse matters, contact the office of the Deputy Clerk in Charge of the Tyler Division at (903) 590-1000.

So ordered by the court on June 3, 2020.


Jeremy D. Kernodle
United States District Judge


J. Campbell Barker
United States District Judge