

United States District Court
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SHERMAN DIVISION

SHERMAN COURTHOUSES STANDING ORDER NO. 2021-1

The Paul Brown United States Courthouse and the United States Courthouse Annex in Sherman, Texas (the Sherman Courthouses), are public buildings in which the public is welcome. In responding to the ongoing pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the court has carefully considered many factors in balancing the rights of criminal defendants to a speedy and fair trial by jury, the rights of civil litigants to a prompt and fair resolution of disputes, the right of the public to “open courts,” and the safety of courthouse staff, jurors, witnesses, parties, observers, and counsel.

It is therefore ORDERED, effective immediately, absent a specific order from the Court, for the protection of the courthouse staff, litigants, attorneys, and observers, upon entry into the Sherman Courthouses, all persons must comply with the following requirements:

- a. All visitors, except a witness while testifying, and an attorney while examining a witness or making a statement to a jury, must wear an appropriate face mask or covering while inside the Sherman Courthouses in courtrooms, jury rooms, public hallways, public restrooms, and elevators, unless excused from this requirement by the judge. Witnesses shall testify unmasked;
- b. For court employees and other tenants of the Sherman Courthouses who are fully vaccinated for COVID-19¹, the wearing of an appropriate face mask or

¹ Individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received their second dose in a 2-dose series or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine.

covering while inside the Sherman Courthouses is optional. However, for those court employees and other tenants of the Sherman Courthouses who are not fully vaccinated, the wearing of an appropriate face mask or covering while inside the Sherman Courthouses is required, unless excused from this requirement by the judge;

- c. Persons entering the Sherman Courthouses, other than jurors, must supply their own face mask or covering;
- d. Each person must maintain appropriate distancing from others in the Sherman Courthouses, to include sitting at the location assigned by a member of the court staff. Each person must follow the instructions of the court staff and Court Security Officers to aid in maintaining distance in the Sherman Courthouses; and
- e. Each person must use the hand sanitizer furnished at the front door upon entering the Sherman Courthouses.

It is further **ORDERED** that these restrictions shall remain in place until modified or rescinded by subsequent order.

SIGNED this 7th day of September, 2021.


AMOS L. MAZZANT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE