

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TEXARKANA DIVISION**

DIVISIONAL STANDING ORDER NO. 2021-5

In response to the ongoing pandemic caused by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Court previously entered administrative orders requiring individuals to wear masks and to physically distance when entering the Texarkana Division courthouse within the Eastern District of Texas. On May 13, 2021, the CDC revised its guidance regarding fully vaccinated individuals. Under the CDC's revised guidelines, fully vaccinated individuals may forego wearing masks or physically distancing in federal buildings except where required by Federal, State, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules or regulations. Individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two (2) weeks after they have received their second dose in a 2-dose series or two (2) weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine. The Court hereby revises its requirement that masks be worn in all common areas of the courthouse to now apply only to those who are not fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In order to comply with this revised mandate, the following order will be implemented in the Texarkana Division courthouse within the Eastern District of Texas:

1) The mandate that masks be worn in all common areas of the Texarkana Division courthouse shall now apply only to those who are not fully vaccinated. The Court Security Officers (CSOs) shall notify those entering the courthouses that, if not fully vaccinated, they must wear a mask while in the courthouse.

2) All individuals who are not fully vaccinated, including jurors, court employees, witnesses, CSOs, United States Marshals Service personnel, and parties and attorneys, shall continue to wear a mask within all common areas of the Texarkana Division courthouse, including within the courtrooms. Mask wearing within the common areas of the courthouse, including any courtrooms, is optional for those who are fully vaccinated.

3) It is within the discretion of the presiding judge in any court proceeding to require individuals to wear a mask despite his/her vaccination status.

4) Entry into the Texarkana Division courthouse will be denied to anyone who:


- has contracted the COVID-19 virus and has not fully recovered for a period of at least 14 days;
- is unvaccinated and has had contact within the past 14 days with someone who has contracted the COVID-19 virus;
- has been directed to self-quarantine by any doctor, medical provider, hospital or health agency;
- has a temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees; or
- is unvaccinated and has traveled internationally within the past 14 days.

5) Anyone who has business within the Texarkana Division courthouse but is unable to appear because of these restrictions should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, contact your attorney;
- If you are an attorney and you are scheduled to appear before a judge, contact the judge's courtroom deputy;
- If you are scheduled to meet with a probation officer, contact the Probation Office; or
- If you are a juror, contact the deputy-in-charge.

6) This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

FOR THE COURT this 2nd day of June, 2021.


Robert W. Schroeder III
United States District Judge