

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re: : Superseding General Orders M-540,
 : M-542, M-561, M-565, M-569,
CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC : M-570, M-571, M-573, and M-574
RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO :
COURTHOUSES : General Order M- 576
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In the interest of public health and safety, and after consideration of public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State, New York City, Westchester County, and other public health authorities, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”) orders that, effective immediately and until this Order is rescinded or superseded,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons may not enter the courthouses of the Court:

- Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been told by a healthcare provider to assume they have COVID-19 due to symptoms or other factors, in the past 10 days.
- Persons who have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting test results.
- Persons who have experienced symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 10 days that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea.
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 10 days with anyone with COVID-19 during the time period starting 48 hours before the onset of the infected person’s symptoms or positive COVID-19 test. (Note: “close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet for at least 10 minutes over a 24-hour period.) **This restriction does not apply to those who have achieved full vaccination* prior to the close contact.**
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 10 days with anyone experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headaches,

* Fully vaccinated is defined as being 2 or more weeks after the final dose (e.g., first for Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, second for Pfizer or Moderna) of a vaccine approved by the FDA or authorized by the FDA for emergency use. Vaccines that are not authorized by the FDA for emergency use or approved by the FDA do not satisfy this definition.

sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea. **This restriction does not apply to those who have achieved full vaccination* prior to the close contact.**

- Persons who live with someone who has been instructed to quarantine in the past 10 days due to close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. **This restriction does not apply to those who have achieved full vaccination* prior to the start of the quarantine.**
- Persons who have been on a cruise ship or river voyage in the past 10 days. **This restriction does not apply to those who have achieved full vaccination* more than 14 days prior to entry into the courthouse.**
- Persons who have been outside of New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, or Vermont for more than 24 hours in the past 10 days, unless proof of compliance with the District Court's travel protocol has been provided. The District Court's travel protocol is set forth in a memo which can be found on the Response to COVID-19 section of the District Court's website located at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>. **Please note that the District Court's protocol on testing following domestic travel does not apply to those who have achieved full vaccination* more than 14 days prior to entry into the courthouse.**
- Persons who have attended an indoor gathering of more than 50 people at a private residence in the past 10 days, including but not limited to parties, celebrations or other social events. **This restriction does not apply to those who have achieved full vaccination* prior to attending the gathering.**

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.

Anyone who has business in one of the courthouses but who cannot enter because of this Order should do the following:

- Persons who are represented by an attorney should contact their attorney;
- Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before a Judge should contact that Judge's chambers directly;[†]
- Employees reporting to work at the courthouse should contact their supervisor; and
- Persons having any other business with the Court should contact the Clerk's office at (212) 284-4040.

[†] It should be noted that, pursuant to [General Order M-543](#), the majority of hearings during the pandemic are being conducted remotely.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that every visitor who comes to one of the courthouses for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process:

- Answer a screening question about COVID-19 vaccination status.
- If unvaccinated (or not yet fully vaccinated), have their temperature taken using the contactless thermal scanner located in the courthouse. A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
- If unvaccinated (or not yet fully vaccinated), answer screening questions relating to COVID-19 symptoms and potential exposure. A person whose answers indicate that they are at increased risk of being contagious with COVID-19 will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
- Wear a mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. Bandanas, gaiters, and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not permitted. If a person does not have a mask, a screener will provide one.
- Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at all courthouse entrances.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that while in the courthouse, all persons must comply with the following rules:

- **Face Coverings:** You must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth in all public areas of the courthouse (including hallways, public counters, elevators and courtrooms). You must also wear a mask in all non-public shared space/common areas where more than one person is assigned to work. These rules apply unless a specific exception has been requested and approved by the Clerk prior to your entry to the courthouse.
- **Social Distancing:** You must adhere to safe social distancing rules, by standing or sitting at least six feet away from other individuals. You must abide by markings on floors and benches indicating where you may stand or sit. If you are standing in line, you must keep six feet away from the person in front of you and behind you, unless you are taking care of a small child or assisting someone with special needs. Elevator capacity will be limited as posted. You must wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth inside elevators. The only exceptions to the distancing rule are if you are fully vaccinated and: (i) you work in the courthouse, a supervisor has given you permission to refrain from social distancing from other fully vaccinated individuals in a particular non-public space and you are in that space, or (ii) you are participating in a judicial proceeding and a judicial officer or member of their staff has given you permission to refrain from social distancing from other fully vaccinated individuals in a particular space and you are in that space.
- **Instructional Signage:** You must abide by all health and hygiene signage throughout the courthouses, including signage regarding masks, social distancing, occupancy restrictions, and hand washing.

Anyone who fails or refuses to abide by these rules will be required to leave the courthouse immediately.

This Order supersedes and replaces prior General Orders M-540, M-542, M-561, M-565, M-569, M-570, M-571, M-573, and M-574 and will remain in place until further notice.

Persons who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

Dated: August 10, 2021
New York, NY

/s/ Cecelia G. Morris
CECELIA G. MORRIS
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge