

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, M-574, and
RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO : M-576
COURTHOUSES :
-----X General Order M-583

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Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York orders that, effective immediately and until this Order is rescinded or superseded,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person who has tested positive for COVID-19, or been told by a healthcare provider to assume they have COVID-19 due to symptoms or other factors, in the past 10 days is not permitted to enter the courthouses.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person who has experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 10 days, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea, must consult the memorandum titled COVID-19 Protocols Following Symptoms or Exposure to COVID-19, which can be found on the District Court’s website at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>, to determine whether they can enter the courthouses.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person who has been in close contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days must consult the memorandum titled COVID-19 Protocols Following Symptoms or Exposure to COVID-19, which can be found on the District Court’s website at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>, to determine whether they can enter the courthouses.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person who has been in close contact with anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must consult the memorandum titled COVID-19 Protocols Following Symptoms or Exposure to COVID-19, which can be found on the District Court’s website at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>, to determine whether they can enter the courthouses.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that any person who has traveled in the past 10 days must follow the protocols that are set forth in the memorandum titled COVID-19 Protocols Following Travel, which can be found on the District Court’s website at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>, to determine whether they can enter the courthouses.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons may not enter any courthouse in the Southern District of New York:

- Unvaccinated persons who have been on a cruise ship or river voyage in the past 10 days.
- Unvaccinated persons who have attended an indoor gathering of more than 50 people at a private residence in the past 14 days including but not limited to parties, celebrations or other social events.
- Unvaccinated persons who have been released from a federal, state or local jail, prison or other correctional institution within the last 14 days.
- Persons who do not meet the criteria for entry as determined by the SDNY COVID-19 entry questionnaire, which can be accessed at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as being 2 or more weeks after the final dose (*e.g.*, first for Janssen/Johnson & Johnson, second for Pfizer and 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.

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;¹
- 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 IS FURTHER ORDERED that every visitor who comes to one of the courthouses for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process:

¹ It should be noted that, pursuant to [General Order M-543](#), the majority of hearings during the pandemic are being conducted remotely.

- Answer screening questions about COVID-19 vaccination status, 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.²
- 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.
- Wear a N95, KN95 or KF94 mask that covers the person's nose and mouth. Bandanas, gaiters, masks with valves, surgical masks and cloth masks are not permitted. If a person does not have an approved 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:** In all public areas of the courthouse (including courtroom galleries, hallways, public counters, and elevators) all persons must wear a N95, KN95 or KF94 mask that covers their nose and mouth. All persons must also wear a N95, KN95 or KF94 mask in all non-public shared space/common areas where more than one person is assigned to work. A Judge may alter these requirements for in-person court proceedings. These rules apply unless a specific exception has been requested and approved by the Clerk prior to an individual's entry to the courthouse.
- **Social Distancing:** All persons must adhere to safe social distancing rules as indicated by markings on floors and benches, or as directed by court staff. 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.
- **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, M-574, and M-576 and will remain in place until further notice.

² Authorized employees and other persons who have received a Court sticker confirming their vaccination status must review and comply with the entry criteria at <https://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/covid-19-coronavirus>.

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

Dated: December 28, 2021
New York, NY

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