



In Re: Revised COVID-19 Directives - Court Normalization Order
Notification to the Public

Administrative Order 2021-AO20

WHEREAS in response to the declaration of national and state emergencies following the classification of COVID-19 as a pandemic, this Court, and the Supreme Court of Missouri have entered several orders directing the operation of court proceedings during the crisis; and

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Missouri has by order dated May 28, 2021, issued revised guidelines which are applicable to all courts within the 31st Judicial Circuit and have discontinued the previously prescribed operational phases; and

WHEREAS it remains the sincere desire of the Court to continue to conduct important, and most often essential court operations and meet all constitutional obligations to the citizens of our community while at the same time take all reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of court employees, litigants, attorneys and citizens.

WHEREFORE, the Presiding Judge of the 31st Judicial Circuit hereby makes the following order Effective June 1, 2021:

1. Admittance to the Greene County Judicial Court Facilities shall be based on the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 guidelines. Currently, employees, litigants and guests to the court facilities that have been vaccinated are not required to wear a face covering or observe physical distancing; HOWEVER, employees, litigants and guests that have not been vaccinated are required to wear a face covering and continue to observe physical distancing.
2. The Greene County Judicial Court Facilities will discontinue the mandatory screening of all persons entering the facilities.
3. This Court shall continue to (1) monitor local health conditions; (2) consult with local health officials and departments regarding what, if any, precautionary measures are necessary in the community in which the court facilities are located, and; (3) monitor the CDC COVID-19 guidelines and implement any new or amended guidelines as necessary to ensure the safety of the employees, litigants and guests to the court facilities.
4. Based on local health conditions, and the recommended CDC COVID-19 guidelines, the judge presiding over an individual case or courtroom may exercise discretion in determining whether special precautionary measures should be utilized to ensure the health and safety of those persons in the courtroom.

5. The judge presiding over an individual case or courtroom should consider continuing to allow vulnerable litigants, witnesses, victims, attorneys, and participants to appear or participate remotely, or where appropriate postpone their required presence at the court facility.
6. The Court will continue to utilize all available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing where appropriate, so as to reduce the number of persons in the court facilities.
7. Regardless of an individual employee's vaccination status, judicial employees should return to work duties unless otherwise instructed by a supervisor.
8. The CDC has advised that authorized vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC advises that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection or transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. Therefore, supervisors should encourage all employees to receive an approved COVID-19 vaccine.
9. Supervisors should make reasonable accommodations in the workplace for employee's who remain more vulnerable to COVID-19. Courts will follow CDC COVID-19 guidelines with regard to temporary quarantine following any confirmed COVID-19 infection, and guidelines for testing following a known exposure.
10. Judicial employees may resume travel for work-related functions, and court committees and commissions may resume in-person meetings.
11. Judicial employee's, whether or not vaccinated, should still be alert for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you have been around someone who is sick, and report any such symptoms to their supervisor without delay.
12. Employees, litigants and guests to the Greene County Judicial Court Facilities may review the current CDC COVID-19 guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>.

13. MUNICIPAL DIVISIONS

The Municipal Divisions of the Circuit Court in Greene County, including Ash Grove, Battlefield, Fair Grove, Republic, Springfield, Strafford, Walnut Grove, and Willard are governed by this Order. However, if the municipal authority in which the municipal court division is located has a more restrictive ordinance regarding use of face coverings, the municipal court must also be guided by those restrictions.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent order of the court.

Dated: 5/28/2021



Michael J. Cordonnier
Presiding Judge
31st Judicial Circuit Court