District of Columbia Courts
Joint Committee on Judicial Administration
Washington, D.C. 20001

FILED
JUN 26 2020
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT OF APPEALS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

ORDER REQUIRING PERSONS TO WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS[1] IN COURT BUILDINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

(Filed—June 26, 2020)

WHEREAS, Pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-1701(b)(9), (c)(1), and (d), the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration (Joint Committee), with the concurrence of the Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, shall have responsibility and is granted the authority over the policies and practices of the District of Columbia court system; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to D.C. Code § 11-1742(a), the Executive Officer of the District of Columbia Courts, subject to the supervision of the Joint Committee, is responsible for the management of court buildings; and

WHEREAS, The health, safety, and well-being of litigants, counsel, court visitors, and court personnel is of the utmost concern to the Joint Committee; and

WHEREAS, As the District of Columbia Courts' buildings slowly reopen to the public, additional precautions are necessary to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of litigants, counsel, court visitors, and court personnel; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that persons maintain a social distance and wear cloth face coverings when in public spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic;

NOW, THEREFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE finds that because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all persons entering court buildings, except young children, persons who have trouble breathing when wearing a face covering or mask,

[1] For the purposes of this Order, the phrase "face coverings" includes masks (whether homemade or manufactured), scarves, and any other cloth covering that completely covers a person's nose and mouth.

persons who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or persons who require a religious or other accommodation, should wear face coverings or masks to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 to other persons on the premises, and as a result

THE JOINT COMMITTEE ORDERS, this 26th day of June 2020, that during the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic, or unless otherwise ordered by the court, all persons, including litigants, counsel, court visitors, and court personnel, entering court buildings, except young children, persons who have trouble breathing when wearing a face covering or mask, persons who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or persons who require a religious or other accommodation, are required to wear face coverings or masks that cover the person's mouth and nose at all times, unless permitted to do otherwise by the court during a court proceeding; and

THE JOINT COMMITTEE FURTHER ORDERS, that if a person does not have a face covering or mask, the District of Columbia Courts will supply them with a face covering or mask to wear while in court buildings; and

THE JOINT COMMITTEE FURTHER ORDERS, that court personnel who are working in their private workspaces[2] may remove their face covering or mask when they are appropriately socially distanced from others.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief Judge Anna Blackburne-Rigsby, D.C. Court of Appeals, Chair
Chief Judge Robert Morin, D.C. Superior Court
Associate Judge John Fisher, D.C. Court of Appeals
Associate Judge Lynn Leibovitz, D.C. Superior Court
Associate Judge Laura Cordero, D.C. Superior Court

[2] For the purposes of this Order, the phrase "private workspaces" includes personal offices or cubicles, but does not include shared workspaces where more than one person sits in close proximity to others without a physical barrier separating them, conference rooms, kitchen or dining areas, restrooms, or any other shared space where an employee could come in contact with another person. If an employee is approached in their private workspace by another person, the employee must immediately put on their cloth face covering.