PRESS RELEASE

New York State
Unified Court System

Hon. Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge

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Courts in New York City to Begin Second Phase of Gradual Return to In-Person Operations

NEW YORK CITY–As New York continues its recovery from the COVID pandemic, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks today announced that, beginning tomorrow, courts in New York City will enter Phase Two of a return to in-person operations, marked by a gradual increase in courthouse activity. Among other Phase Two measures, New York City's Family Court will be adding more virtual courtrooms.

Over the past two weeks, judges, chambers staff and support staff in New York City's five boroughs−which have met the Governor's safety benchmarks−have been returning to their courthouses.

During Phase Two, non-judicial staffing levels will moderately increase to support necessary administrative court functions as well as to provide support for the modest increase in foot traffic into the courthouse. Steps will be taken to encourage physical distancing and reduce the number of people in any given area in courthouses. Non-reporting court staff will continue to work virtually.

Phase One measures that will remain in place to protect the health and safety of judges and staff, attorneys, litigants and members of the public, include:

- Anyone entering the courthouse will be required to wear a mask.
- All staff who interact with court visitors must wear a mask.
- Courtroom and other areas will be carefully marked to ensure proper physical distancing.
- Court facilities will be regularly sanitized.
- Installation of acrylic barriers, hand sanitizer dispensers and other safety features.

“As we continue to make progress in restoring in-person court operations throughout the State, we remain mindful of the many challenges ahead−particularly in our high-volume courthouses in New York City and other populous areas of the State−and vigilant in following the new safety measures and operational protocols designed to protect the health of our judges, staff and court visitors,” said Chief Judge DiFiore.

For information and updates from the New York State Unified Court System on the coronavirus, please visit www.nycourts.gov or call the Coronavirus Telephone Hotline at 833-503-0447.

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