

IN THE MOUNT VERNON MUNICIPAL COURT, MOUNT VERNON, OHIO

FILED

2021 MAY 18 PM 3:06

In Re: Public Health and Coronavirus (COVID-19)

JOURNAL ENTRY

MT. VERNON MUNICIPAL CT.
LISA R. MAZZA, CLERK

In accordance with the guidance issued on May 13, 2021 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) the Court temporarily orders as follows:

1. Face Coverings.

Fully vaccinated people (fully vaccinated refers to a person who is ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine, per the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons) are not required to wear a face covering in Court.

All individuals that are not fully vaccinated shall wear face coverings at all times when in Court.

Regardless of vaccination status, the requirement to wear a face covering does not apply to the following:

- A. children under ten years of age;
- B. Individuals with a medical condition such as respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or other conditions that contraindicate the wearing of a face covering;
- C. Individuals communicating or seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing-impaired or has another disability where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication;
- D. Individuals alone in an enclosed space, such as an office, or in lieu of an enclosed space, the individual is separated by at least six feet in all directions from all other individuals; and
- E. Individuals actively engaged in a public safety capacity, including but not limited to law enforcement, firefighters or emergency medical personnel.

For the purposes of this Order, a face covering is any material covering an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.

2. Social Distancing

Unless fully vaccinated, individuals must maintain six feet of social distancing from others while in Court. The Court will maintain signage to facilitate six feet of social distancing.

All fully vaccinated people can resume activities at Court without socially distancing.

3. Health Checks

Regardless of vaccination status, individuals are encouraged to assess their health before coming to Court and to stay home if you have a fever, cough, or other signs of possible COVID-19. Individuals who are ill are required to call the Court prior to their hearing or other appointment to request a continuance.

Court employees will not take temperatures or ask health questions when individuals enter the Court.

4. Hand Washing and Sanitization

Hand washing or the use of a sanitizer product that meets the CDC guidelines prior to entering the Court is encouraged. Hand washing or the use of a sanitizer while in Court is encouraged, as well. Hand washing facilities are available in the public restrooms and sanitizer will be made available throughout the Court for employees and patrons.

Court employees shall routinely disinfect high-contact surfaces, desk workstations, restrooms, and equipment.

5. Courtroom Occupancy

Up to 22 spectators will be permitted in the Courtroom's fixed seating (25% of the Courtroom's maximum occupancy pursuant to ODH guidance). The Court reserves the right to limit maximum Courtroom occupancy to fewer than 22 spectators when necessary to facilitate efficient Courtroom operations.

6. Signage

The Court will post clearly visible signage at all entrances requiring all persons not fully vaccinated entering the Court to wear a face covering. The text shall state that, unless the individual is fully vaccinated, all persons are required to wear a face covering and engage in six feet of social distancing at all times while in Court.

7. Effective Date

This Order shall be effective retroactive to May 14, 2021 at 4:00 PM EDT and remains in full force and effect until June 2, 2021 at 12:01 AM EDT unless rescinded or modified before that time.

This TEMPORARY ORDER will remain in effect until lifted by the Court.


John E. Thatcher, Judge

cc. City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon Police Dept.
Mount Vernon Law Director
Clerk of Court
Adult Probation Dept.

Knox County Sheriff's Office
Knox County Public Defender
Knox County Bar Association
Local Media