UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

)

)

)

IN RE:

Comprehensive Order Regarding Current Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 SO-22-04

Chief District Judge Travis R. McDonough

STANDING ORDER

National and local COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates continue to trend

favorably, and residents of the United States generally enjoy easy access to vaccinations. As a

result, the Court rescinds Standing Order 21-19, dated December 29, 2021, in its entirety.

A separate order will govern video and audio teleconferencing pursuant to The CARES

Act¹. The Court will continue to monitor the situation closely and will take further action as appropriate.

Effective immediately, it is ORDERED:

Visitors to Courthouse Buildings

For the purposes of this order, "visitors" are any individuals entering any courthouse building in the Eastern District of Tennessee who are not tenants or employees of any of the tenants in any of the courthouse buildings in the district.

FILED CLERK'S OFFICE United States District Court Eastern District of Tennessee Date: Mar 15, 2022, 4:10 pm

¹ See SO-20-08 (Mar. 30, 2020), <u>https://www.tned.uscourts.gov/sites/tned/files/SO-20-08.pdf</u>, authorizing video and teleconferencing during COVID-19 pursuant to the CARES Act, extended by SO-20-14 (June 22, 2020), SO-20-17 (Sep. 23, 2020), SO-21-07 (Mar. 16, 2021), SO-21-11 (Jun. 23, 2021); SO-21-13 (Sep. 21, 2021); and SO-21-17 (Dec. 14, 2021). Pursuant to SO-21-17, available at <u>https://www.tned.uscourts.gov/sites/tned/files/SO-21-17.pdf</u>, the authorization for video and teleconferencing is set to expire by March 18, 2022, at the latest.

Mask and Temperature-Screening Requirements Suspended with Exceptions

Unless otherwise ordered below or ordered by a presiding judge in a courtroom, visitors are not required to wear a mask inside any courthouse and are not required to submit to temperature screening.

However, supervisees of the United States Probation Office shall wear a mask while inside the courthouse.

Detainees shall remain masked en route to and from the courtroom.

Visitors with Symptoms of COVID-19

In order to protect the health and well-being of other visitors and the Court's personnel, the Court may exclude from any courthouse visitors exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.

Courtroom Access

The presiding judge will establish requirements relating to mask wearing or other precautionary health requirements. The requirements of each judge will continue to be available on the Court's public website.²

Video and Teleconferencing

While the CARES Act enabling orders of this Court are in effect, all hearings held by video or teleconference will be accessible to the public unless sealed. Call-in information for the public or media will be listed on the Court's public calendar, available on the Court's public website.³ Persons granted remote access to proceedings are reminded of the general prohibition against photographing, recording, and rebroadcasting of court proceedings. See Fed. R. Crim. P. 53, E.D. Tenn. L.R. 83.1(d), and E.D. Tenn. LBR 5073- 1.

² <u>https://www.tned.uscourts.gov/sites/tned/files/covid_trials_2021.pdf.</u>

³ The Court's public calendar is available at <u>https://www.tned.uscourts.gov/district-calendar</u>.

Naturalization Ceremonies

Naturalization ceremonies shall remain suspended through April 15, 2022. During this period of suspension, the Attorney General of the United States, acting through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, may administer the Oath of Allegiance to all applicants for naturalizations residing in the Eastern District of Tennessee. *See* 8 U.S.C. § 1421. Naturalization ceremonies will resume after April 15, 2022, unless otherwise ordered.

Other Non-Essential Judicial Activities

All non-essential judicial activities, such as courthouse tours, attorney admissions ceremonies, outreach activities, and other public events shall remain suspended through April 15, 2022, but shall resume thereafter unless otherwise ordered.

SO ORDERED.

TRAVIS R. MCDONOUGH CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE