

**IN THE SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI MUNICIPAL DIVISION OF THE
31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT**

**IN RE: COVID-19 (Phase 2)
February 1, 2021**

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NOTICE AND ORDER

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared that the outbreak of COVID-19 is a worldwide pandemic, and;

WHEREAS, effective February 1, 2021 via Administrative Order 2021-AO06 dated January 27, 2021, Presiding Judge Michael Cordonnier of Missouri’s 31st Judicial Circuit has ordered this court to move from “Operating Phase One” to “Operating Phase Two” as directed and defined by the Supreme Court of Missouri’s July 24, 2020 Order including “Operational Directives” addressing COVID-19, and;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Missouri’s July 24, 2020 Order instructs all courts of this state in Phase Two to have “increased in-person proceedings ... where they can safely be conducted in compliance with social distancing protocols and occupancy rate limitations applicable to the local community, and;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Missouri has ordered that its July 24, 2020 order be interpreted broadly for the protection of the public from the risks associated with COVID-19, and;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Missouri’s Order further encourages “judges and court staff to continue utilizing all available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing – whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.”

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective February 1, 2021 and until further order of this court, that:

ALL COURT PROCEEDINGS, including “in-person” proceedings, shall commence with appropriate consideration given to social distancing protocols and occupancy rate limitations applicable to the local community, and;

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE shall the following persons enter this courthouse:

- Persons with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher,
- Persons who have traveled to any foreign country within the last 14 days,
- Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has travelled to any foreign country within the last 14 days,
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine or isolate by any doctor, hospital, or health agency until the conclusion of that quarantine or isolation period,
- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 until the conclusion of the appropriate quarantine or isolation period,
- Persons with cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or a new loss of taste or smell, and;

ANYONE WITHIN A CATEGORY OR CATEGORIES IMMEDIATELY ABOVE will be denied entry by court security. Individuals denied entry are to be provided by court security this “Notice and Order” and the most recent “COVID-19 Informational Sheet” containing court-contact information, and;

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF CASES, to the extent feasible based on all relevant circumstances including the willingness and ability of parties to so engage, shall be handled remotely via available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing – to avoid in-person courtroom appearances:

- Reappearances
- Pre-trial conferences
- Matters involving vulnerable individuals defined by the CDC [Center for Disease Control] as “individuals 65 years or older or individuals with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including those who suffer from chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immune disorders, obesity, diabetes, or chronic kidney or liver disease”
- Other cases as may be determined from time to time, and;

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED that this court has implemented the following strategies to minimize COVID-19 transmission:

- Security checkpoint protocol to include, as circumstances allow, temperature checks and screening questions before any non-employee may enter the courthouse.

- Occupancy limits of:

- 16 persons in courtroom "A" (the large courtroom)
- 7 persons in courtroom "B" (the small courtroom)
- 13 persons in the lobby area
- 1 person in the foyer

"Persons" includes judges, court staff, prosecutors, and prosecutors' staff.

- Social distancing protocols mandating that an individual in the public areas of the courthouse (including courtrooms) is located at one, and only one, of these areas:

- Sitting on a blue "X," or
- Standing at/on a blue "X," or
- Moving toward a blue "X."

The blue "X's" are a minimum of 6 feet apart.

- Face mask or covering to be appropriately worn by any non-employee entering the courthouse unless a medical or other condition substantially inhibiting such use is alleged to, and verified by, court security. Any disputes in this regard shall be immediately brought to a judge by court security and the dispute shall be resolved before the objecting person enters the courthouse, if at all. Masks and face coverings may be personal or court supplied. Court-supplied masks shall be "one-use" only.

- Heightened sanitation and disinfection of common and high-traffic areas including additional hand sanitizers and wipes (as available), sanitizing stations, and cleaning solutions, and;

THESE RESTRICTIONS shall remain in place until further notice. Persons who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately. If you have any questions about this Order, please contact Court Administrator Kyle O'Dell at 417-864-1360.

SO ORDERED.



Todd Thornhill
Chief Judge

1-28-21
Date