

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In re: :
: Superseding General Orders M-540,
CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC : M-542 and M-561
:
RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO :
COURTHOUSES : General Order M-565
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In the interest of public health and safety, and after consideration of public health guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New York State, New York City, Westchester County, and other public health authorities, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York (the “Court”) orders that, effective immediately and until this Order is rescinded or superseded,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the following persons may not enter the courthouses of the Court:

- Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19, or have been told by a healthcare provider to assume they have COVID-19 due to symptoms or other factors, in the past 10 days.
- Persons who have been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting test results.
- Persons who have experienced symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 10 days that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea.
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 10 days with anyone with COVID-19 during the time period starting 48 hours before the onset of the infected person’s symptoms or positive COVID-19 test. (Note: “close contact” is defined as less than 6 feet apart for more than cumulative 15 minutes in a 24-hour period.)
- Persons who have had close contact within the past 10 days with anyone experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea.
- Persons who live with someone who has been instructed to quarantine in the past 10 days due to close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.

- Persons who have been on a cruise ship or river voyage in the past 10 days.
- Persons who have traveled in the past 10 days from (1) a state that is noncontiguous to New York; (2) a US territory; or (3) a CDC Level 2 or higher country, unless proof of compliance with New York’s “test-out” protocol has been provided. New York’s test-out protocol is available at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>. As set forth on the New York State website, domestic travelers who have been fully vaccinated (*i.e.*, ≥ 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) may enter the courthouse within 90 days of their full vaccination without proof of a negative COVID-19 test.
- Persons who have attended a large gathering (more than 50 people) where people within 6 feet were forcefully exhaling (*e.g.*, singing, shouting, chanting) and either the person or those around them were not wearing masks.
- Persons who have attended within the past 10 days a non-essential gathering of greater than ten individuals for any reason, including but not limited to parties, celebrations or other social events.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these protocols will be denied entry by a Court Security Officer.

Anyone who has business in one of the courthouses but who cannot enter because of this Order should do the following:

- Persons who are represented by an attorney should contact their attorney;
- Attorneys or pro se litigants who are scheduled to appear in court before a Judge should contact that Judge’s chambers directly;¹
- Employees reporting to work at the courthouse should contact their supervisor; and
- Persons having any other business with the Court should contact the Clerk’s office at (212) 284-4040.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that every visitor who comes to one of the courthouses for any reason must pass through the following entry screening process:

- Have their temperature taken using the contactless thermal scanner located in the courthouse. A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted

¹ It should be noted that, pursuant to [General Order M-543](#), the majority of hearings during the pandemic are being conducted remotely.

to enter the courthouse.

- Answer screening questions about COVID-19 status and possible recent COVID-19 exposure. A person whose answers indicate that they are at increased risk of being contagious with COVID-19 will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.
- Wear either one KN95/N95 mask or double masks that cover the person's nose and mouth. Bandanas, gaiters, and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not permitted. If a person does not have approved masks, a screener will provide them.
- Apply hand sanitizer, which will be available at all courthouse entrances.
- Place items that need to be screened through an x-ray machine in a single-use plastic bag, which will be discarded after each use. Court staff will not handle personal belongings.
- Place any electronic device that must be checked in a single-use plastic bag that will be handed to a Court Security Officer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that while in the courthouse, all persons must comply with the following rules:

- **Face Coverings:** You must wear either a KN95/N95 mask or two approved masks that cover your nose and mouth in all public areas of the courthouse (including hallways, public counters, elevators, and courtrooms). You must also wear either a KN95/N95 mask or double masks in all shared space/common areas where more than one person is assigned to work unless a Court staff member has granted you permission to remove your masks. You must also wear either a KN95/N95 mask or double masks any time you are interacting with any other person(s) regardless of social distancing.
- **Social Distancing:** You must adhere to safe social distancing rules by standing or sitting at least six feet away from other individuals. You must abide by markings on floors and benches indicating where you may stand or sit. If you are standing in line, you must keep six feet away from the person in front of you and behind you, unless you are taking care of a small child or assisting someone with special needs. Elevator capacity will be limited as posted. All elevator occupants must wear either a KN95/N95 mask or double masks.
- **Instructional Signage:** You must abide by all health and hygiene signage throughout the courthouses, including signage regarding masks, social distancing, occupancy restrictions, and hand washing.

Anyone who fails or refuses to abide by these rules will be required to leave the courthouse immediately.

This Order supersedes and replaces prior General Orders M-540, M-542 and M-561 and will remain in place until further notice.

Persons who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

Dated: March 15, 2021
New York, NY

/s/ Cecelia G. Morris
CECELIA G. MORRIS
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge