

United States Court of Appeals
for the Federal Circuit
—and—
United States Court of
Federal Claims

ORDER

**Requiring Face Coverings in the
National Courts Building**

To supplement the steps already taken to protect public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, *see* Orders dated March 16, 2020 and June 26, 2020 (restricting building access), and in accordance with guidance from both public health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control, which has advised that face coverings should be worn in public areas when appropriate social distances may be difficult to maintain, especially in areas with significant community transmission, and the local stay-at-home order for the District of Columbia, which clarifies that face coverings must be worn by certain types of employees and should be worn by the general public when leaving home for essential and allowable activities, to further safeguard the health and safety of the general public, court personnel, counsel, litigants, case participants, and other visitors to the courthouse, and on behalf of both courts, we find pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071(e) that there is an immediate need for this Order altering the rules of both courts, effective July 13, 2020, noon (Eastern).

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) All persons visiting the Howard T. Markey National Courts Building (“the courthouse”), including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and

other members of the public, shall be required to wear a mask or face covering for their nose and mouth continuously during their visit to common or public areas of the courthouse.

- (2) Any visitor seeking entry to the courthouse without a mask or face covering shall be provided a mask by the courts and, if no mask is available, the visitor will be asked to contact the office to be visited and determine whether alternate arrangements may be made to accomplish the business needs of the visitor without entry to the courthouse.
- (3) Members of the court staff should and are requested to wear a mask or face covering at all times, unless they are alone at their workstation or in their private office.
- (4) These restrictions will remain in effect beginning July 13, 2020, noon (Eastern), and continue until this Order is either amended or rescinded.
- (5) The Circuit Executive and Clerk of Court are directed to provide public notice of this Order and to take any necessary and proper actions to implement these restrictions.

FOR THE COURTS

July 13, 2020

Date

/s/ Sharon Prost

Sharon Prost
Chief Judge
United States Court of
Appeals for the
Federal Circuit

July 13, 2020

Date

/s/ Margaret M. Sweeney

Margaret M. Sweeney
Chief Judge
United States Court of
Federal Claims