



IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

June 1, 2020

The U.S. District Court, Western District of Tennessee, continues to monitor the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak in the District and updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and other federal, state, and local public health authorities. Consistent with the best information available, the Court has adopted a phased reopening of in-person proceedings as further detailed in the Court’s Administrative Order No. 2020-26 available on the Court’s webpage (<https://www.tnwd.uscourts.gov/>).

To ensure the continued health and safety of all individuals doing business with the Court, the Court has adopted the following protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure:

- (a) All persons entering a court facility must wear a face covering while in all common areas and as may otherwise be directed. Any person not wearing a face covering will be denied entry and/or removed from the facility.
- (b) All persons entering a court facility must follow all building rules adopted for the building in which the proceeding is being held. Participants may not enter the building or may be removed from the building if they fail to comply with building rules and screening protocols.
- (c) Everyone in the courtroom who is either participating in or observing a proceeding must wear a face covering over their mouth and nose, as recommended by the CDC. A judge may request that a participant remove a face covering for a limited purpose.
- (d) Gloves may be worn but are not required. The United States Marshal Service may require detainees to wear gloves.
- (e) The CDC’s recommended social distancing guidelines (maintaining at least 6 feet between individuals) will be followed. The courtroom will be marked to indicate the distances to be kept between the participants.
- (f) Hand sanitizer and other cleaning material will be available in the courtrooms for use by Court personnel, litigants, and others involved in court proceedings.
- (g) Cleaning protocols between hearings will be followed.
- (h) If any person who appeared in court develops COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for the coronavirus, such person must report that information immediately to the chambers of the presiding judge or the judge’s courtroom deputy/case manager.

The Court continues to adjust its response to the COVID-19 health emergency as circumstances dictate and will keep the public and attorneys so apprised. Additional information or clarification of the above can be obtained through the Clerk of Court's Office by calling 901-495-1200 (Memphis) or 731-421-9200 (Jackson).

Thomas M. Gould
Clerk of Court