

JUL 01 2020

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

JAMES N. HATTEN, Clerk
By:  Deputy Clerk

**IN RE: ENTRANCE SCREENING AND THE
WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS OR
MASKS IN NORTHERN DISTRICT
COURTHOUSES**

GENERAL ORDER 20-08

ORDER

Anticipating an increase in public traffic in the Northern District of Georgia courthouses as the State and Court progress toward post-pandemic normal operations; and

Recognizing the continued threat posed by the ongoing presence of the COVID-19 disease throughout the District; and

Recognizing that the COVID-19 disease is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are in close contact with one another (within six feet), through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, which droplets can land in the mouths and noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs, and that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms; and

Desiring to protect the health of those entering the courthouses consistent with the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health authorities to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including the use of face coverings or masks in public settings, it is hereby

ORDERED that all employees, visitors, and contractors entering United States District Courthouses in Atlanta, Gainesville, Newnan, and Rome will:

Review COVID-19 screening questions posted at the entrances to each courthouse;

Not enter the courthouse in the event the visitor or employee answers yes to any of the screening questions;

Observe social distancing while in a courthouse;

Wear a face covering or mask (hereinafter mask) that completely covers the wearer's nose and mouth at all times while in the public areas of the courthouse unless the entrant is less than two years old.

The Clerks of the District and Bankruptcy Courts, the Chief Probation Officer, and agencies within a courthouse not a part of the Judicial Branch may establish their own policies for the wear of masks within their space as to both their staffs and members of the public. Each Judge may establish the mask policy for his or her chambers and courtroom for both court staff and all others.

Visitors seeking entry to the courthouse who do not have a mask will be provided a mask. If a mask cannot be provided for any reason, the visitor will be provided the telephone number of the office he or she wishes to visit to explore alternatives to entering the courthouse. Visitors seeking to access either the Bankruptcy or District Courts will be provided the telephone number of the appropriate Clerk of Court.

Public Notices will be posted at each entrance to the courthouses within the District consistent with the provisions of the Annex attached to this Order.

ORDERED that the United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals not wearing a mask or

failing to review the screening procedures.

Dated this 1 day of July 2020.



THOMAS W. THRASH, JR.
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

COVID-19 SCREENING QUESTIONS
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA COURTHOUSES

WARNING: TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF COURTHOUSE OCCUPANTS, YOU **MUST NOT** ENTER THE COURTHOUSE IF YOU ANSWER **YES** TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS:

1. Do you feel ill or have you taken any medication today for the purpose of reducing a fever?
2. Have you developed ANY flu-like symptoms of COVID-19 infection in the last 14 days; such as a cough, fever, or shortness of breath?
3. Have you or has anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days?
4. Are you or is anyone in your household awaiting test results for COVID-19?
5. In the last 14 days, have you received instructions from a public health authority or private physician to self-observe, self-isolate, or self-quarantine?
6. Within the last 14 days, have you been within six feet of someone who has a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection for longer than 15 minutes **WITHOUT** taking proper precautions like wearing a mask and frequently washing your hands during this contact period?

WHILE INSIDE THE COURTHOUSE:

YOU **MUST** WEAR A FACE-COVERING OR MASK

YOU **MUST** SANITIZE YOUR HANDS UPON ENTRY (HAND SANITIZER IS PROVIDED)

TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, STAY **SIX FEET** AWAY FROM ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS

ANY PERSON WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DENIED ENTRY AND/OR WILL BE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL FROM THE COURTHOUSE