

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN RE: USE OF FACE COVERINGS OR
MASKS IN PUBLIC AREAS OF THE E.
BARRETT PRETTYMAN COURTHOUSE
AND THE WILLIAM B. BRYANT ANNEX
DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Standing Order No. 20-26 (BAH)

Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

ORDER

To supplement the steps already taken to protect public health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, *see* Standing Orders No. 20-08 (restricting access); No. 20-09 (limiting court operations); and No. 20-19 (extending duration of limited court operations), and in accordance with guidance from both public health authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 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,¹ and the local stay-at-home order for the District of Columbia, which order 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,² to further safeguard the health and safety of the general public, Court personnel, counsel, litigants, other case participants, and visitors to the courthouse, it is hereby

ORDERED that, effective Monday, April 27, 2020, all persons visiting the E. Barrett Prettyman Courthouse and the William B. Bryant Annex (“the Courthouse”), including vendors,

¹ *Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission*, CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html> (last visited Apr. 26, 2020).

² *Mayor Bowser Extends Public Health Emergency, Stay at Home Order, and Closure of Non-Essential Businesses Through May 15*, OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-extends-public-health-emergency-stay-home-order-and-closure-non-essential> (last visited Apr. 26, 2020).

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; it is further

ORDERED that 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; it is further

ORDERED that Members of the Court staff should and are requested to wear a mask or face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouse and also in private work areas and non-public areas of the courthouse, such as non-public corridors and elevators, unless physical space permits sufficient distance of at least 6 feet from others; and it is further

ORDERED that these restrictions will remain in place temporarily until further order of the Court, based upon recommendations of public health and local government officials about abatement in the public health and safety need to wear a mask or facial covering.

SO ORDERED.

Date: April 27, 2020

BERYL A. HOWELL
Chief Judge