

**IN THE COURT OF APPEALS  
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT OF OHIO  
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

ENTERED  
AUG 18 2021

IN RE: :  
WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT LAW CENTER: : CASE NO. M21000005  
PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS :  
:

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

In response to the public health crisis created by COVID-19 and the actions taken by federal, state, and local officials, a number of Administrative Orders have been issued setting forth a number of safety measures in an effort to maintain Court functions while complying with public health orders and guidelines.

On July 27, 2021, the CDC updated its guidance recommending that everyone wear a mask in indoor public settings in areas of “substantial” and “high” transmission, regardless of vaccination status. According to CDC data, Hamilton County reached a level of “high transmission” during the week of August 2, 2021 to August 8, 2021. County level for community transmission rates is available on the CDC’s website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>.

In accordance with the most updated guidance from the CDC and to further serve the community, effective **Wednesday August 18, 2021** and until further order, the prior Administrative Order entered on June 10, 2021 is modified as follows:

1. This Administrative Order applies to the William Howard Taft Law Center at 230 E. 9th Street (“Taft Law Center”).
2. Consistent with public health guidelines, anyone entering the Taft Law Center shall wear a facial covering/mask in all common areas of the first floor, including the entrance, lobby, and exit of the building. Face coverings/masks shall also be worn in all elevators operating in the Taft Law Center.
3. The leadership of each of the entities occupying individual floors within the Taft Law Center retains authority to establish their own standards within their individual spaces, including capacity, social distancing, and face covering/mask policies. This includes the following entities: The Court of Appeals, First Appellate District, Hamilton County Probate Court, Hamilton County Prosecutor, Hamilton County Public Defender, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts, Veterans’ Service Commission.

4. Individuals shall observe physical distancing where possible, keeping a minimum of six (6) feet of distance between people at all times in all common areas.
5. For purposes of this Order, a facial covering is a face covering or mask made of cloth or a similar material that covers the nose, mouth, and chin at all times, and is separate and apart from one's clothing, and does not obscure the identity of the person.
6. Individuals who wish to wear a face covering for personal health reasons shall be permitted to do so even where masks are not required in a particular area. Individuals may be asked by a judge or magistrate to remove their face covering if necessary for purposes of audibility.
7. To limit large gatherings, remote hearings and meetings are encouraged, where possible.
8. Electronic filing through the Clerk of Courts and Probate Clerk's e-filing portal is encouraged for all filings where possible.
9. The availability of hand sanitizers and regular cleaning in common areas shall be maintained.
10. No person shall enter the Taft Law Center, including all Hamilton County elected officials, county and court employees, contractors, and anyone seeking to participate in or attend a court proceeding, without regard to vaccination status:
  - a. If they have COVID-19 or believe they have COVID-19, or;
  - b. They exhibit signs of respiratory infection (cough, fever, shortness of breath). Such individuals seeking to attend a court hearing shall call their attorney or the courtroom staff of the judge presiding over the proceedings.
  - c. They are an unvaccinated person, and within the last 14 days, have been exposed to someone suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, or;
  - d. They are awaiting a COVID-19 test result.
11. The Hamilton County Sheriff and his or her Deputies and other agents shall not be liable for anyone admitted or denied access to the Taft Law Center regardless of such person's medical health.
12. Any person who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 in any of the common areas of the Taft Law Center may be asked to leave the building at the discretion of the Court or the leadership of the relevant entity in which the person is located.
13. Unvaccinated employees must perform a daily symptom assessment before coming to work and are strongly encouraged to wear a facial

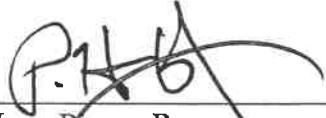
ENTERED

AUG 18 2021

covering and observe physical distancing in all areas except in their private office space. Employees must stay at home if they develop a fever or exhibit signs of a respiratory infection.

14. This Administrative Order is effective **August 18, 2021** and until further order of the Court. To the extent this Order conflicts with any of the previous COVID-19 related Administrative Orders, this Administrative Order supersedes.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**



---

Hon. Pierre Bergeron  
Administrative Judge, First District Court Of Appeals