

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE: :
 :
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER : **STANDING ORDER NO. 20-14**
CONCERNING THE USE OF :
FACE MASKS/COVERINGS IN :
PUBLIC AREAS OF THE :
DISTRICT'S COURTHOUSES :

WHEREAS, public health authorities have advised public and private agencies to continue to take necessary and appropriate precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") and slow the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, there is currently in place a "stay at home" directive from the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to travel outside of the home and the gathering of groups in public settings;

WHEREAS, the Governor of Pennsylvania recently directed that all Pennsylvanians wear a mask or face covering when out in public. Specifically, the Governor directed that masks or face coverings be worn by customers and workers at businesses that are essential and remain open within the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, the Court is advised that the employees of the U.S. Marshal Service and the Court Security Officers in each courthouse location in this District are directed to wear masks or facial coverings in the public areas of the courthouse;

WHEREAS, as a public institution committed to the sound administration of equal justice under law, the Court is essential and remains open with limited staff (see, e.g., General Order 20-01 (Supp.));

WHEREAS, in furtherance of the health and safety of the court personnel and all others entering or doing business in the courthouses of this District, the Court already has in place certain screening requirements (see, Standing Order 20-06);

WHEREAS, this Court will continue to take reasonable and prudent actions to further that mission consistent with public health needs and the health needs of its staff, members of the public, and others that enter the courthouses of this District.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to continue to further public health and safety, the health and safety of Court personnel, counsel, litigants, other case participants, vendors, contractors, and the general public, and in the spirit of the guidance issued by Governor Wolf to all Pennsylvanians:

1. Members of the Court staff shall wear a mask or face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouse. Facial masks/coverings need not be worn in private work areas provided there is sufficient physical distancing from others.
2. Visitors to the Court, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and other members of the public, shall be required to wear a mask or face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouse.
3. Any person seeking entry to the Courthouse without a mask or face covering shall be delayed by the Court Security Officers, who will inquire as to the office the person is visiting and the purpose. The Court Security Officers or the visitor shall then contact that office to determine whether the business needs can be handled other than by entry into the building.
4. This Order shall remain in effect until amended or vacated.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER C. CONNER
Christopher C. Conner, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Middle District of Pennsylvania