

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

GENERAL ORDER 2021-01

JUNE 22, 2021

PANOS, C.J.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts (the “Court”) has consulted with epidemiologists and public-health experts to determine appropriate protocols for conducting proceedings at the John W. McCormack Post Office and Court House (the “POCH”). In accordance with that guidance, it is hereby **ORDERED** as follows:

1. This Order shall take effect July 6, 2021, and attempts to incorporate both the GSA requirements for entry into the POCH and the Court’s requirements for entry into any of its facilities on floors 10, 11, and 12 of the POCH.

2. All persons entering the Court at the POCH shall wear masks covering their nose and mouth and shall socially distance unless they have been vaccinated against COVID-19. For these purposes, the term “vaccinated” shall mean having received both doses of the vaccine (if the vaccine involves two doses) and having waited a period of two weeks after the final dose.

3. Any unmasked entrant to the Court at the POCH should be prepared to show proof of vaccination status in the form of a CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card, a photograph of such a card, or other suitable medical documentation.

4. The only exception to that requirement is where a judicial officer has made a specific temporary exception that the interest of justice, balanced against the public-health risk, requires such action for reasons provided on the record.

5. All persons entering the Court at the POCH must perform a health self-

assessment and observe posted elevator protocols. The health self-assessment provides as follows:


- a. Do you currently have COVID-19 or any symptoms of COVID-19 per the CDC, such as a recently developed cough, fever or chills, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell, or taste, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, congestion, sore throat, diarrhea, or vomiting?
- b. In the past 14 days, have you been in close contact (within six feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with anyone known to have COVID-19 or symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
- c. Are you isolating or quarantining, or have you been ordered to isolate or quarantine because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that you may be sick with COVID-19?
- d. Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, you may not enter the Court. If you have a scheduled appearance and may not enter the Court for one of the reasons listed above, please contact the Court at (617)748-5300.

5. Visitors meeting the requirements of this Order will have met the entrance requirements of the General Services Administration (GSA) for the main entrance of the POCH.

6. The Court may issue separate orders regarding proceedings in courtrooms.

So Ordered.



Christopher J. Panos,
Chief Judge, United States Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Massachusetts