

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

FILED IN OFFICE

In Re: ]  
Entry into the Chatham County ]  
Courtthouse ]

2021 JUL 30 A 11: 26

*Shana S. Russ*  
DEP. CLK. SUPERIOR CT  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

ORDER

Based upon the Global Covid-19 Pandemic, the upward trajectory of newly confirmed COVID-19/coronavirus cases in the Eastern Judicial Circuit, the present community transmission index, the current recommendation of the Center of Disease Control and the Coastal Health District and in an effort to protect public health, including the health of court employees, parties, and subpoenaed court participants, the June 25, 2021 Order entered by this Court is hereby vacated, and in its place, the following shall henceforth apply:

1. Upon entering the Chatham County Courthouse or Juvenile Courthouse, all individuals, including all employees working within the two courthouses shall be asked the following questions:

**In the past fourteen days:**

- 1. Have you had contact with anyone confirmed to have COVID-19/coronavirus?**
- 2. Have you experienced fever or other flu-like or cold symptoms?**

Any individual responding "yes" to either question shall not be permitted to enter the courthouse or juvenile courthouse and shall be directed to call the office or court they are attempting to access so that they may receive further instructions.

If the individual works in the courthouse or juvenile courthouse, that individual shall immediately call their supervisor and receive further instructions.

In addition, anyone exhibiting symptoms of illness witnessed by the Court or the Chatham County Sheriff's Office may be directed to leave the courthouse and be given instructions how to handle their business without remaining in the building.

2. Personal Protective Equipment (hereafter PPE), including masks or face coverings<sup>1</sup> shall be worn by all individuals, irrespective of vaccination status, not only upon entering the courthouses, but also in all elevators, courtrooms, common areas, and public areas of the courthouses.

a. If a visitor does not have access to his/her own PPE, a mask will be provided.

b. Within the confines of private workspaces or offices, the individual court or department heads can develop their own policies to allow no masks, provided social distancing can be observed and the public or other unrelated employees are not placed at risk.

c. Any person seeking entry to the courthouses without a mask or face covering shall be denied access by the Chatham County Sheriff or designee(s). The person denied entry should call the judge's office or desired destination and determine how to handle their business without coming into the courthouses. If the purpose of the visit is for a court appearance, the Chatham County Sheriff, or his designee(s) shall notify the primary deputy assigned to the judge and the judge's office of the denied access.

d. The Chatham County Sheriff and his designee(s) are directed to enforce this Order within the common areas and public areas of the courthouses.

This Order shall remain in effect until amended or vacated by the undersigned.

SO ORDERED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.



Penny Haas Freeseemann, Chief Judge  
Superior Court, Eastern Judicial Circuit

cc: Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court  
All Judges and Clerks of Court  
District Attorney  
Chairman Chatham County Commission  
News media

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<sup>1</sup>Face coverings may include coverings that secure to the ears or back of the head and encompass the mouth and nose. These include homemade cloth or ear loop covers, scarves, handkerchiefs, bandanas, and neck gaiters.