

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE EASTERN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STATE OF GEORGIA

In Re: Entry into the Chatham County  
Courthouse

2021 JUN 25 P 2:11

*SSR*

DEP. CLK. SUPERIOR CT.  
CHATHAM COUNTY, GA

**ORDER**  
**(EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021)**

Based upon the Global Covid-19 Pandemic and the ensuing judicial emergencies declared by the Georgia Supreme Court as well as by this Court, and in an effort to protect public health, including the health of court employees, parties and subpoenaed court participants, the March 24, 2020 Order 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 given instructions how to handle their business without remaining in the building.

3. **Have you been fully vaccinated for at least two weeks?**

Any individual either responding "no" or refusing to provide an answer to this vaccination question will be required to wear a mask (paper or cloth) at all times within all elevators, courtrooms, common areas, or public areas of the

courthouse or juvenile courthouse. Within the confines of private workspaces or offices, the individual courts or department heads may develop their own mask policies, provided social distancing can be observed and no one is put at risk of transmission.

Other than those reporting for grand jury or trial jury duty, any individual responding "yes" to this vaccination question will be allowed to enter the courthouse or juvenile courthouse without a mask.<sup>1</sup>

All person reporting for jury service must be masked at this point in time and henceforth until community transmission rates reduce and/or the vaccination rate improves.

Nothing in this Order shall prevent a Judge in either courthouse from requiring masks of all individuals in his or her courtroom, based upon safety considerations as determined at that particular time.

SO ORDERED this <sup>27</sup>25 day of June 2021.



Penny Haas Freeseemann, Chief Judge  
Superior Court, E.J.C. of Georgia

Cc: Chief Justice, Georgia Supreme Court  
All Chatham (Eastern Circuit) Judges and Clerks of Court  
District Attorney  
Chairman Chatham County Commission  
Sheriff John Wilcher  
News media

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<sup>1</sup> This mask protocol amends the "Personal Protective Equipment" provisions of the June 3, 2020 Order Establishing Guidelines For In-Person Court Proceedings, Eastern Judicial Circuit.