

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
KENDALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20 - 16

*In re the Wearing of Masks or Face  
Coverings in the Kendall County  
Courthouse*

FILED

AUG 11 2020

ROBYN INGEMUNSON  
CIRCUIT CLERK KENDALL CO.

WHEREAS, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in order to protect the health and safety of the general public and courthouse employees, and after consultation with the offices of the Kendall County State's Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, and Circuit Clerk, and pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the Court's inherent authority; and

WHEREAS, due to the frequently changing circumstances regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and public health concerns, measures must continue to be implemented and updated to protect the health and safety of all those working inside the courthouse and the public, and to ensure the fair and efficient access to justice; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the Order of the Illinois Supreme Court in M.R. 30370 dated March 17, 2020, individuals, including judges, court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors and witnesses, should not enter any courthouse if they:

- Have traveled, within the last 21 days, to any country designated by the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as high-risk locations for transmission of COVID-19;
- Reside or have close contact with anyone who has traveled to any country designated by the CDC as high-risk locations for transmission of COVID-19;
- Have been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home by any medical provider;

- Have been diagnosed with, or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with, COVID-19; or
- Have flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or shortness of breath; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court Guidelines For Resuming Illinois Judicial Branch Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic recommends that courts impose social distancing practices consistent with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and local public health authorities; and all practical measures should be taken within the courthouse and courtrooms to ensure a clean environment and prevent the spread of the virus, including notifying all entering the courthouse that wearing a mask/face covering is required (consistent with current public health requirements).

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1. Anyone over the age of two entering and occupying public areas of the courthouse must wear a mask/face covering, unless excused by the presiding judge; and
2. The mask/face covering must be well-secured and worn in such a manner as to cover both the mouth and nose of the individual; and
3. Individuals are encouraged to wear their own mask/face covering. If an individual does not have a mask/face covering, one may be provided to them, if available. If a mask/face covering is not available, the individual will not be allowed to enter the courthouse; and
4. If an individual refuses to wear a mask/face covering, he/she will be denied entry; and
5. Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals with medical conditions or disabilities which prevent them from safely wearing masks/face coverings. An individual who is not medically able to tolerate a mask/face covering due to a medical condition or disability, should contact the Court's Disability Coordinator (Marci Vose at 630-553-4208 or via email [mvose@co.kendall.il.us](mailto:mvose@co.kendall.il.us)) as soon as possible in advance of the scheduled court proceeding, so that appropriate, reasonable accommodations may be made; and
6. Once inside the courthouse, if an individual refuses to wear a mask/face covering as prescribed in this Order, they will be asked to put one on or adjust their current mask/face covering accordingly. If they continue to refuse to wear the mask/face

covering at all, or not wear it as prescribed, they will be removed from the building;  
and

7. All judges, judicial staff, courthouse employees, attorneys and members of the general public must wear masks/face coverings when inside the public spaces of the courthouse, at all times, including the lobby, restrooms, public and non-public corridors, and courtrooms, regardless of whether the courtroom is open to the public;  
and
8. In limited situations where appropriate social distancing may be maintained, the presiding judge of the courtroom may remove his/her mask/face covering if necessary to make an appropriate record and to conduct court proceedings; and
9. In limited situations where appropriate social distancing may be maintained, the presiding judge of the courtroom may grant permission to the attorneys and/or litigants appearing in front of him/her to remove their mask/face covering to be heard in a court proceeding. If permission is granted, the attorney or litigant must place their mask/face coverings back on immediately upon conclusion of the hearing; and
10. In limited situations during hearings and trials, where appropriate social distancing may be maintained, the presiding judge of the courtroom may grant permission to witnesses to remove their mask/face coverings while testifying.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that court security, personnel, and judicial staff shall take reasonable measures to enforce six-foot social distancing and the wearing of masks/face coverings within the public spaces of the courthouse and all courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that in addition to requiring masks/face coverings and practicing social distancing, the 23rd Judicial Circuit is limiting the number of people inside the courthouse and courtrooms.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that an individual who is unable to attend a court hearing due to any of the restrictions imposed by the Illinois Supreme Court, and as set forth above, the individual is strongly encouraged to call the appropriate office of the Circuit Clerk to report your situation and for instructions on how to proceed:

Kendall County Circuit Clerk 630-553-4183

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court may issue further Orders, as necessary, to address the changing circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Administrative Order supersedes Administrative Order 20-15 and shall be effective beginning August 17, 2020.

Enter: August 11, 2020.



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Hon. Robert P. Pilmer  
CHIEF JUDGE