

FILED

JAN 10 2022

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY X DEPUTY CLERK

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION

IN RE: §
CORONA VIRUS/COVID-19 PANDEMIC §
§
§

**SIXTEENTH ORDER RELATING TO ENTRY INTO
THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AUSTIN, TEXAS**

In order to protect public health and in recognition of the national emergency declared by the President of the United States on March 13, 2020, this court entered a series of orders relating to entry into the United States Courthouse in Austin, Texas. By the court's fifteenth order entered May 28, 2021, the court, based on the decreasing numbers of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Austin Division of the Western District of Texas, relaxed many of the restrictions relating to entry into the courthouse. With the current surge in the omicron variant, however, and noting that the major city in the division, Austin, is currently in Stage 5 of the city's COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines (Stage 5 being the highest or most restrictive of the guidelines), the court finds it should return to the earlier restrictions and now renders the following order:

IT IS ORDERED that the United States Courthouse, 501 W. 5th Street, Austin, Texas, will remain open for business, but access to the building will be restricted. Court Security will only permit access to the following persons:

- Persons who have been ordered to appear by any judge of the Western District of Texas, Austin Division;
- Persons who have been directed to appear by the United States Probation Office or by the United States Pretrial Services Office;
- Persons who have court business with the Office of the District Clerk, such as to file pleadings or make payments. Such persons will be allowed access only for this limited purpose and only on the first floor of the courthouse;

- Government employees who work in the courthouse and are authorized to appear by their employer;
- Contractors who are authorized to appear;
- United States Postal Service mail carriers, private mail carriers and private delivery services;
- Law-enforcement personnel;
- Credentialed courthouse press;
- Victims who are attending scheduled proceedings;
- A reasonable number of family members of a defendant who is appearing for sentencing in a criminal proceeding; and
- Persons designated by the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Chief Judge of the Western District of Texas, or any United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that no one will be permitted to enter the courthouse without wearing a mask found to be adequate by Court Security.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that persons authorized to enter must pass and abide by any screening procedures and social-distancing instructions as directed by Court Security.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that any person seeking entry into the courthouse, shall have their temperature checked using a contactless thermometer kiosk. A person with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, will not be permitted to enter the courthouse.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all persons must wear a mask at all times when in the public areas of the courthouse and, when inside any private office within the courthouse, must abide by the policies of that office with respect to the use of personal protective equipment and social distancing.


IT IS FINALLY ORDERED that this Order shall be effective immediately and be in effect until modified by further order of the court.

This order supersedes all previous orders relating to entry into the United States Courthouse.

SIGNED this 10th day of January, 2022.



LEE YEAKEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



ROBERT PITMAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE