

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

FILED

March 16, 2022

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

BY: Julie Golden
DEPUTY

**SEVENTEENTH 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. The court's sixteenth order entered January 10, 2022, recognized the surge in and seriousness of the omicron variant of COVID-19, and that Austin, the major city in the Austin Division of the Western District of Texas, was at Stage 5, the highest and most restrictive of the city's COVID-19 Risk-Based Guidelines. Since the entry of that order, the omicron-variant surge has dropped appreciably, and the city is now at Stage 2 of the guidelines, a low category much less restrictive than Stage 5. Also, the Centers for Disease Control has greatly reduced its guidance on when a mask should be worn, suggesting that a person should wear a mask based on the person's personal preference, informed by the person's personal risk level.


Based on these recent developments, **IT IS ORDERED** that the United States Courthouse, 501 West 5th Street, Austin, Texas, is open for business to the public without the requirement to wear a mask or other face covering, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals who wish to wear a mask or other face covering may do so. All other restrictions in the court's previous orders are **VACATED**.

This Order is effective immediately, supersedes all prior orders, and will be in effect unless modified by further order of the court.

SIGNED this 16th day of March, 2022.



LEE YEAKEL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE



ROBERT PITMAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE