

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

IN RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2021-3

PANDEMIC RELATED CURTAILED OPERATIONS

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Administrative Order 2021-2 is hereby amended as follows:

2. Court Operations

Civil and criminal trials (bench and jury) may be held. All scheduling is within the sound discretion of the presiding Judge.

All in-court civil evidentiary hearings and other in-court hearings and proceedings requiring personal appearances, on the dockets of the United States District Court and the United States Bankruptcy Court, may be held. All scheduling is within the sound discretion of the presiding Judge.

In-court re-arraignments and sentencing hearings may be held. All scheduling is within the sound discretion of the presiding Judge.

The authority to hold in-person trials, hearings and other in-court proceedings does not in any way limit the discretion of the presiding Judge to conduct all or part of any proceedings by video conference or telephone conference as previously authorized by the Court and by the CARES Act and which authority is herein extended.

Grand Jury proceedings may be held with observance of the Court's COVID-19 protocols.

Court Unit Executives shall make operational decisions regarding the means and


manner of the operations of their respective units, including but not limited to employee telework.

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Chief Judge presiding over a primary courthouse building and pursuant to the approval granted by the Facility Security Committee governing multi-tenant facilities, fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear a mask and physically distance within the Russell B. Long Federal Building and United States Courthouse and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated shall be required to wear masks and physically distance when in any public space in the facility and shall otherwise observe all posted signs and placards. This Order does not prohibit individuals from choosing to wear a mask and physically distancing at any time, regardless of vaccination status. Judicial officers may require staff and visitors to their respective chambers and courtrooms to wear masks and to observe physical distancing rules within the sound discretion of the presiding judge. Court Unit Executives (CUE) may likewise exercise discretion with respect to requiring masks and physical distancing of staff and visitors to the CUE's offices.

This Order supersedes all previously issued Pandemic related Orders and shall remain in effect until further Order of this Court.

SO ORDERED on May 25, 2021

FOR THE COURT:



SHELLY D. DICK, CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA