

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF ALASKA

In the Matter of the Amendment of General
Order 2020-8,

Misc. Proceeding No. 05-60001

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-9

ORDER AMENDING GENERAL ORDER 2020-8

On March 20, 2020, the Court issued General Order 2020-3 addressing temporary changes to court operations in response to the exigent circumstances created by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). On March 23, 2020, the Court issued supplemental General Order 2020-4 clarifying the application of General Order 2020-3 to the court's Fairbanks and Juneau offices. The Court has extended the application of these orders through August 3, 2020. *See* General Order 2020-7 amending General Orders 2020-3 and 2020-4. In its most recent order extending these orders, General Order 2020-8, the court also required face coverings through August 3, 2020.

This court's orders concerning court operations within the coronavirus pandemic have largely followed the relevant provisions of similar orders entered by the United States District Court for the District of Alaska (District Court). The orders of the District Court are detailed in this court's prior orders, including General Order 2020-7. On July 9, 2020, the District Court issued its most recent order, Miscellaneous General Order 20-24, further extending certain circumstances, operations, and procedures in its prior orders to September 4, 2020, including the mandatory wearing of face coverings within the courthouse.

Though the court's prior orders have observed that the State of Alaska and local communities were gradually expanding operations, in light of an increase in COVID-19 cases in Alaska a "social distancing" advisory remains in effect and some operations have recently been constricted. Therefore, in consideration of the factors outlined in Miscellaneous General Orders 2020-3 through 2020-8, and to continue to protect the public safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19, the court shall continue the measures currently in place regarding access to the courthouse. Further details regarding access to the courthouse for filings or appearances on matters being heard by the court, or to contact the clerk's office, are available at the court's website: www.akb.uscourts.gov.

Therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, until further order of the court, all routine hearings shall continue to be conducted telephonically and evidentiary hearings shall be conducted using remote technology or in-person, at the Court's discretion.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk's Office shall be closed to the public, with a drop-box provided at the Anchorage location, **until further order of the court.**

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, all persons over two years of age seeking access to or operating within the courthouse are required to wear a face covering or mask at all times while occupying public spaces or common areas, unless otherwise directed by the Court or a courthouse official. The face covering need not be a medical-grade mask but must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth when worn. If a medical condition prevents a person from wearing a face covering, they must show proof of the medical condition in the form of a physician's order or other documentation. The Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals not wearing a face covering or mask.

All employees or contractors of the Court or Clerk's Office who work alone in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons, may temporarily remove the face covering while in their designated office or workspace.

In addition, effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter the courthouse:

1. Persons currently diagnosed with or experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19;
2. Persons who have had close physical contact within the last 14 days with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
3. Persons who have been asked to self-observe, self-isolate, or self-quarantine by a doctor, hospital, or public health authority within the last 14 days.

Anyone attempting to enter or remain in the courthouse in violation of this Order will be escorted from the premises immediately.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order supersedes any inconsistent information or direction in any standing order or notice related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

DATED: July 31, 2020.

BY THE COURT

/s/ Gary Spraker
GARY SPRAKER
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

Distribution: Janet Stafford, Clerk of Court
Honorable Timothy Burgess, Chief United States District Court Judge
Brian Karth, Clerk of the United States District Court
Anna Russell, Librarian
Rob Heun, United States Marshal