

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF ALASKA

In the Matter of the Amendment of General
Order 2020-9,

Misc. Proceeding No. 05-60001

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2021-1

ORDER AMENDING GENERAL ORDER 2020-9

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. Since March 23, 2020, the Court has issued General Orders 2020-6, 2020-7, 2020-8, and most recently, 2020-9, which extended the application of these orders until further order of the Court.

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). On June 1, 2021, the District Court issued its most recent order, Miscellaneous General Order 21-14, easing most COVID-19 related requirements, including the mandatory wearing of face coverings within the courthouse by persons previously vaccinated and showing no symptoms of COVID-19.

In consideration of the foregoing, and in light of the reduction of reported cases within the state, the Court finds it appropriate to ease most of the COVID-19 changes to court operations contained in prior General Orders issued by this Court. The Court is aware of various concerns raised by the ongoing cases of COVID-19 and shall continue to monitor the situation.

Therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, **until further order of the Court**, all routine hearings shall continue to be conducted using remote technology, including telephonic or video participation. Where the parties believe it necessary to conduct a hearing within the courtroom to permit live testimony, a party may request that the hearing or trial be conducted in-person rather than remotely. The decision to conduct such hearing remotely or in person shall be at the Court's discretion. Further details regarding 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.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective **Monday, July 19, 2021**, the Clerk's Office shall reopen to the public. A drop box will also be provided at the Anchorage location **until further order of the Court**.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that those individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are no longer required to wear face coverings or masks or social distance when entering the courthouse or while occupying public spaces or common areas. Fully vaccinated individuals may, however, exercise their discretion to wear face coverings or masks while in the courthouse. Those individuals who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear face coverings or masks and maintain social distance. The face coverings need not be a medical-grade mask but must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth when worn. Persons with symptoms of COVID-19, whether vaccinated or not, may not enter the courthouse.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all employees or contractors of the Court or Clerk's Office who are not fully vaccinated and who work alone in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons may temporarily remove their face covering while in their designated office or workspace.

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 15, 2021.

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