



NOTICE REGARDING FACE MASK/COVERINGS IN DISTRICT OF VERMONT COURTHOUSES

The Vermont Department of Health authorities currently advise public and private agencies to continue to take necessary and appropriate precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) and slow the spread of the disease. Specifically, the state's guidance directs that masks or face coverings must be worn by employees at businesses that are essential and remain open within the State of Vermont.

The United States Courts are a public and essential institution committed to the sound administration of equal justice under law and remains open with limited staff. Accordingly, in conjunction with the Court Security Committee, General Order No. 90, and guidance issued by the Vermont Department of Health, this court will continue to take reasonable and prudent actions to further that mission consistent with the health and safety needs of the public, its staff, case participants, and others that enter the courthouses of this district.

Effective immediately, in the spirit of the guidance issued by the Vermont Department of Health, the court and Court Security Committee require the following:

- All visitors to the district's courthouses, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and other members of the public, shall be required to wear a mask or a face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouses. The requirement to wear facial masks/coverings in internal space will be determined by each agency or court unit.
- Any visitor seeking entry into a courthouse without a mask or face covering will be provided a mask by court security staff.
- Any person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition may seek an exemption from the court.
- All visitors shall remain in designated public areas. Failure to abide by these restrictions may result in expulsion from the facility.
- Court security staff is authorized to enforce the above listed requirements and deny entry to or expel non-complying individuals.