

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI**

IN RE: )  
COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS )  
DUE TO COVID-19 RESPONSE )

**ORDER**

WHEREAS this Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice within the Courthouses of this District during this period of national emergency;

NOW THEREFORE, the Court hereby adopts the following Order:

1. Any prior Orders or statements regarding entry into the courthouses of this District by this Court are rescinded and are replaced with the following Order effective immediately for all federal courthouses in the Eastern District of Missouri. This Order shall be reviewed no later than June 25, 2021;

2. Public entry to all federal courthouses in the Eastern District is open, subject to the restrictions set forth in this Order;

3. In order to be admitted beyond the main lobby of the courthouses, all persons must:

a. Verify upon request to a Court Security Officer that they have:

i. Not been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last two weeks;

ii. Not been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last two weeks; and

iii. No fever, cough, or shortness of breath. For purposes of building entry, fever may be monitored by automated thermometers at entries to the courthouses. Persons may be admitted if their temperature is not at or above 100 degrees on the automated thermometer; and

b. Wear a mask or face covering over their nose and mouth, and observe social distancing standards (6-foot radius per person), when in any common area of any courthouse within this district;

4. An agency head, a judge presiding in a case, or a designee of the agency head or judge, may create their own standards regarding social distancing and masking of vaccinated persons within any portion of their designated courthouse space, or otherwise regulate the spacing and flow of persons, as deemed necessary by the judge or agency without further Order of this Court;

5. This Court and General Services Administration will create and publish occupancy standards for all elevators in all courthouses and may modify the elevator standards without further Order of this Court. All persons shall be required to follow elevator occupancy standards;

6. Anyone who cannot enter or is unwilling to enter any courthouse in violation of the protocols in subsection 3 will be referred by a Court Security Officer to the court or agency with whom the person has business, in the manner directed by the court or agency; and

7. Persons who, for public health and safety reasons, do not wish to enter the courthouse or seek to minimize their time at the courthouse, may still access the services of the courts and agencies in this courthouse. Each court and agency shall also furnish in the main lobby of the courthouses of this district, and on their respective websites, and to the Court

Security Officers, information and remote services to enable the public to access the services of that court or agency in the manner directed by the court or agency and as authorized by law.

Such information may include but is not limited to drop boxes for paper filing; remote filing and payment options; telephone and e-mail contact information during business hours and non-business hours; and, web address information. A current list of the information referenced in this subsection is attached [here](#) and may be amended by each agency without further Order of this Court. This list shall be posted and made available to the public in the main lobby of the courthouses within this district.

**SO ORDERED** this 27th day of May, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney W. Sippel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "S".

Rodney W. Sippel  
Chief United States District Judge