

United States Court of Appeals
for the Seventh Circuit
Chicago, Illinois 60604

General Order 22-005

ORDER Regarding COVID-19
This Order Supersedes General Order 22-004

The court continues the restoration of in-person operations following its exit from the Continuity of Operations Plan and emergence from the COVID-19 public-health emergency. To that end,

It is hereby ORDERED that:

This order supersedes General Order 22-004, effective immediately.

ORAL ARGUMENT:

The court has resumed in-person oral argument, and the courtroom is open to the public in accordance with the terms of this order. Please check the court's website for additional instructions, if any, regarding social distancing and other pandemic-related protocols.

Option to Present Argument Telephonically or by Video Communications: The assigned panel may, in its discretion, permit counsel to present oral argument telephonically or by a video-communications platform approved by the court. Not later than 14 days before the argument date and after conferring with opposing counsel, a party may file a motion to present oral argument telephonically or by video communications. The motion shall: (1) state the reason for the request; (2) state whether the request is opposed or unopposed; and (3) identify which counsel wish to appear remotely.

Waiver of Oral Argument: Not later than 14 days before the argument date, counsel may file a motion under Circuit Rule 34(e) to waive oral argument if the appeal can be resolved based on the briefs and record and the decisional process would not be significantly aided by oral argument. *See* FED. R. APP. P. 34(a). Counsel must first confer with opposing counsel before seeking a waiver of oral argument, and the motion must state whether the request is opposed or unopposed. The court prefers joint motions.

Livestreaming audio of oral argument: The court will continue to livestream the audio of oral argument on its YouTube channel or another livestreaming service. Please see the court's website for information about the livestreaming service.

SELF-CERTIFICATION REGARDING COVID-19:

By entering the courtroom or any of the court's offices, rooms, or facilities in the Dirksen Courthouse, you certify that:

- If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, that you have isolated for the requisite 5 days pursuant to applicable CDC guidance, your symptoms are either nonexistent or improving, and you have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (but see the masking protocol below);
- If unvaccinated, you have not within the previous 5 days had known close contact with a person who has COVID-19; and
- You have not within the previous 5 days experienced symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including a temperature of more than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle or body aches, nausea or vomiting, or new loss of taste or smell.

Court staff: All court staff must sign a statement attesting that they have read and understood this self-certification requirement.

Attorneys appearing for in-person oral argument: As part of the check-in process in the Clerk's Office, attorneys appearing for in-person argument must sign a statement attesting that they have read and understood this self-certification requirement.

MASKING:

Face masks are not required, except that persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 6–10 days or have had close contact in the past 5 days with a person who has COVID-19 should follow current masking guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

For the Court:



Diane S. Sykes, Chief Judge

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 30th day of September, 2022.