

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

General Order 21-005

ORDER Regarding COVID-19 and Restoration of In-Person Activity

In response to current data regarding COVID-19 infection rates, and in accordance with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local public-health authorities, the *Federal Judiciary COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines*, and the United States Courts *Safe Return to the Workplace Handbook*,

It is hereby ORDERED that:

Subject to the qualifying provisions of General Orders 21-006 and 21-007, also issued today, the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit will exit its Continuity of Operations Plan ("COOP") and resume in-person court operations effective September 1, 2021. As of that date, the court will conduct its operations according to the Federal Judiciary Phase III Recovery guidance as modified by this order and General Orders 21-006 and 21-007. More specifically:

In-Person Oral Argument: Effective September 1, 2021, the courtroom will reopen to counsel and the public, and the court will resume in-person oral argument *subject to* the qualifying provisions of General Orders 21-006 and 21-007. The court will continue to livestream the audio of oral argument on its YouTube channel.

On-Site Staffing: Court employees will resume on-site staffing *subject to* the qualifying provisions of General Orders 21-006 and 21-007, medically necessary accommodations, and workplace policies administered by supervisors.

This order supersedes the court's order dated March 18, 2020, which activated the COOP, and subsequent extension orders dated August 3 and November 3, 2020, and March 10 and June 3, 2021. It is subject to change based on public-health conditions.

For the Court:



Diane S. Sykes, Chief Judge

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 22nd day of July, 2021.