

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

General Order 22-002

**ORDER Regarding COVID-19**  
**This Order Supersedes General Orders 21-008,**  
**21-009 (AMENDED), and 21-010**

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 Orders 21-008, 21-009 (AMENDED), and 21-010, effective immediately.

**ORAL ARGUMENT:**

On September 6, 2022, the courtroom will reopen to the public. In-person oral argument, which resumed last year, will continue 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, a person certifies that he or she:

- Has not tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 10 days;
- If unvaccinated, has not within the previous 5 days had known close contact with a person who has COVID-19; and
- Has not within the previous 10 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:**

A face mask is required in the court's public corridors, the Clerk's Office front desk, the lawyers' lounge, and in the public seating area in the courtroom. Lawyers appearing for oral argument may remove their masks while at counsel table and the podium so long as they have not had close contact in the past 5 days with a person who has COVID-19. Masking is optional in the court's nonpublic offices, rooms, and corridors, except that persons who 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:



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Diane S. Sykes, Chief Judge

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 25th day of July, 2022.