

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-04

22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit  
McHenry County, Illinois

FILED

FEB 23 2022

KATHERINE M. KEEFE  
McHENRY CTY. CIR. CLK.

**Whereas**, the Corona Virus known as COVID-19 has caused the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit to modify its operations as stated in previous administrative orders; and

**Whereas**, the Supreme Court entered an Order in M.R. 30370 on May 20, 2020 authorizing each circuit court to return to hearing court matters on June 1, 2020, whether in person or remotely, according to a schedule to be adopted for each county by the chief judge in each circuit; and

**Whereas**, the Chief Judge of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit has entered Administrative Orders to address operations during the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to authority granted by the Supreme Court with the most recent order, Administrative Order 2021-09, entered August 27, 2021, which requires all persons entering the Judicial Center to wear a mask or face covering; and

**Whereas**, on February 22, 2022 the Illinois Supreme Court entered an order modifying previous orders in M.R. 30370, effective February 28, 2022, removing the masking requirement for courthouses and stating that each circuit court may adopt rules requiring the wearing of masks in courthouses pursuant to appropriate public health guidance; and

**Whereas**, the Chief Judge of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit has conferred with the McHenry County Department of Health and other local government authorities regarding the current state of COVID-19 in McHenry County and the masking protocols taking effect March 1, 2022 throughout the region.

**Therefore, the Chief Judge Orders the Following:** Individuals, including judges, court employees, parties, attorneys, jurors and witnesses, should not enter the Michael J. Sullivan Judicial Center if they have new flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath (excluding such symptoms caused by chronic conditions); currently have been directed to quarantine or isolate at home by any medical provider or public health official; or reside or have regular close contact with a person currently subject to a quarantine or isolation direction issued by a medical provider or public health official and are not themselves fully vaccinated.

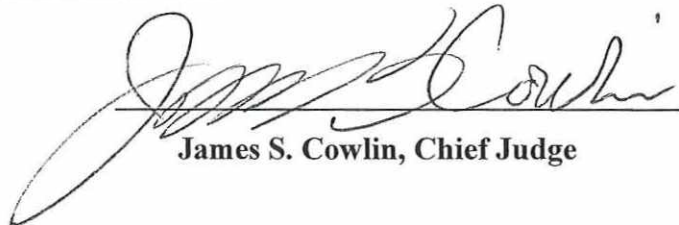
**It Is Further Ordered**, beginning on Monday, February 28, 2022, a fully vaccinated person may enter the Judicial Center without a mask or face covering. It is recommended persons not fully vaccinated wear a mask and maintain social distance when in the Judicial Center.

**Is Further Ordered**, individuals who are fully vaccinated may continue to wear a mask or face covering when in the Judicial Center. However, a judge may request any person to remove their mask or face covering when the judge deems it necessary for court purposes.

**It is Further Ordered** that persons denied entry for reasons stated above shall use remote access to the courtroom when available, and if not available, shall contact the Clerk of the Court to request the judge presiding be made aware of their inability to enter the building and request a new date. The judge presiding shall have discretion in granting new dates and all persons are responsible for tracking their own case dates.

**It is Further Ordered**, that the Court will continue operations in a way that (1) limits the number of people in a courtroom and in the hallways of the Judicial Center at any one time, (2) allows for efficient court appearances and avoids unnecessary court appearances, (3) takes advantage of orders and processes that allow cases to progress through remote appearances and agreed orders. At the discretion of the judge presiding over a courtroom, the use of video remote appearances shall continue pursuant to Supreme Court Rule, Local Court Rule, and Guidelines for a Virtual Courtroom, as established by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit and as encouraged by Illinois Supreme Court.

**It Is So Ordered, this 23rd day of February, 2022 and this order shall be effective Monday, February 28, 2022 and remain in effect until further order of the Court.**

  
James S. Cowlin, Chief Judge