

FILED
Clerk
District Court

JUN 04 2021

for the Northern Mariana Islands
By _____
(Deputy Clerk)

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF
COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS IN
RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19) OUTBREAK

GENERAL ORDER No. 21-00004

On July 27, 2020, the Court resumed regular business hours and allowed members of the public to attend open court proceedings pursuant to General Order 20-0009. Public access remains available by phone while the Court continues to observe social distancing standards which limits the number of individuals allowed in the courtroom. Recently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidance regarding mask use for vaccinated individuals. [The Guidance](#) provides: “Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.”

Effective today, this Order establishes the Court’s requirements in the Gualo Rai Courthouse to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 and supersedes General Orders 20-0009, 10 and 12. In issuing this Order, the Court has considered the latest CDC Guidance regarding mask use for vaccinated persons; the Administrative Office of the United States Courts Directive 21-069; input from the Facility Security Committee, including representatives from the tenant agencies of the

Gualo Rai Courthouse; and the current status of restrictions on in-person interactions, social gatherings and business hours in the Commonwealth.

While testing and quarantine measures have been eased to allow vaccinated persons meeting certain criteria to enter the Commonwealth without quarantine according to the [Travel Quarantine Matrix](#) effective May 17, 2021, this community remains vigilant in its efforts to prevent outbreaks of COVID-19. Reduced occupancy rates, social distancing and mask use are still mandated in churches, businesses and for large social gatherings. Although the Commonwealth attained 56% of eligible individuals fully vaccinated as of the date of this Order, mask use in public places remains the norm in the Commonwealth and is required in many places by order of the Governor.

Accordingly, the Court will continue to implement entry protocols and require social distancing and mask use within the courthouse as follows:

- Anyone entering the building must wear a face mask, sanitize their hands upon entering and exercise social distancing (stay 6 feet apart from others not from the same household).
- Mask use and socially distancing is required in the common areas of the Gualo Rai Courthouse and all court spaces with public access, including courtrooms, lobbies, intake areas, interview and testing rooms, jury assembly and deliberation rooms, and the library.
- Court Security will deny entry to:
 - Anyone who is not wearing a facemask;

- Anyone who has been asked to self-quarantine or self-isolate by any doctor, hospital or health agency within the last 10 days and has not subsequently tested negative for COVID-19;
- Anyone who is currently experiencing any undiagnosed symptom that the CDC has identified as possible signs of COVID-19, including:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Persistent Pain or pressure in chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

This entry protocol applies to the public as well as all tenants and employees working in the courthouse. Tenant agencies may determine social distancing and mask usage measures for their own spaces.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 4th day of June, 2021.



RAMONA V. MANGLONA
Chief Judge