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Clerk  
District Court

FEB 18 2022

for the Northern Mariana Islands  
By   
(Deputy Clerk)

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

**General Order No. 22-00002**

*In re:*

Courthouse Entry Protocol in Response to the  
COVID-19 Outbreak and Omicron Variant

**ORDER**

**Introduction**

On February 8, 2022, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) rescinded its mandatory testing upon arrival requirement for all travelers entering the CNMI, while maintaining the 5-day post arrival testing requirement for the unvaccinated only. In its announcement, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force confirmed that the highly contagious omicron variant is present in the CNMI and that the CNMI intends to shift its focus from traveler surveillance to medically significant community infections. Consequently, the Court issues this General Order to update its entry protocol to minimize the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19.

While testing and quarantine measures have been eased to allow travelers to enter the CNMI without mandatory quarantine, this community remains vigilant in its efforts to prevent outbreaks of COVID-19, particularly with the recent surge of cases in the CNMI. On February 1, 2022, the CNMI reached its highest ever COVID-19 daily diagnosis count of more than 200 confirmed cases. Although the Commonwealth has attained 100% fully vaccinated status for eligible individuals, with nearly 55%

1 of those boosted as of February 16, 2022, mask use in public places and social distancing remains the  
2 norm in Commonwealth government offices and business establishments.

3 Before issuing this Order, the Court considered the updated border entry protocol for the  
4 CNMI, the contagiousness of the Omicron variant, the latest Centers for Disease Control and  
5 Prevention (CDC) Guidance on isolation and quarantine, community practice in the CNMI, and input  
6 from the Facility Security Committee, including representatives from the tenant agencies of the Gualo  
7 Rai Courthouse.

### 8 **Entry Protocol**

9 Effective today, this Order establishes the requirements for entry into the Gualo Rai  
10 Courthouse and supersedes General Orders 20-0009, 10 and 12, and 21-00004. Anyone entering the  
11 building must wear a face mask, sanitize hands upon entering, and exercise social distancing (stay 6  
12 feet apart from others not in the same household). Mask use and social distancing is required in the  
13 common areas of the Gualo Rai Courthouse and all court spaces with public access, including  
14 courtrooms, lobbies, intake areas, interview and testing rooms, jury assembly and deliberation rooms,  
15 and the library. Court Security will deny entry to:

- 16 • Anyone who is not wearing a face mask.
- 17 • Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the previous 5 days. .
- 18 • Anyone who has had [close contact](#), as defined by the CDC, with a COVID-19 positive  
19 person within the previous 5 days and has not subsequently tested negative for COVID-19  
20 using a COVID-19 antigen or PCR test
- 21 • Anyone experiencing undiagnosed or lingering diagnosed COVID-19 related symptoms,  
22 including:  
23


- Fever or chills
- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting or 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.

#### **Public Access**

To maintain social distancing, only a limited number of members of the public will be admitted to attend open court proceedings. While courtroom access is limited, public access to court proceedings remains available via [teleconference line](#) listed on the court's website. Recording or broadcasting any hearing in any manner is strictly prohibited. Violators of this prohibition may be found in contempt of court.

IT IS SO ORDERED on February 18, 2022.

  
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RAMONA V. MANGIONA  
Chief Judge