

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT OF MISSOURI
ANDREW and BUCHANAN COUNTIES**

In Re: COVID-19 Operational Directives

WHEREAS, the Missouri Supreme Court issued new Operational Directives ("Directives") on July 24, 2020, superseding Their order dated May 4, 2020; and

WHEREAS, this Circuit entered Its most recent Order on September 15, 2020; and

WHEREAS, since that Order was entered there has been a further significant increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the Fifth Circuit; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal and principal purpose of all of the COVID-19 related orders is for the courts of the State of Missouri to remain open and available; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Directives is to facilitate local solutions appropriate to local conditions; and

WHEREAS, Missouri courts must maintain a certain degree of uniformity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the state and employees who enter our courthouses and court facilities must feel confident for their own safety and understand the health and welfare of every litigant, juror, witness, victim, judicial employee,

attorney, and other individual involved in judicial proceedings across the state is paramount in the decisions made under these Directives.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED as follows:

- 1.) Effective September 30, 2020, the operations of the Fifth Judicial Circuit in Andrew and Buchanan Counties shall remain in Phase One.
- 2.) Social distancing protocols shall remain in effect throughout.
- 3.) Such social distancing protocols include the mandatory use of face masks or coverings in all public court areas and during all court proceedings unless good cause is shown.
- 4.) Judicial employees should observe at least a six-foot minimum physical distance from others in all offices, meetings, and court proceedings.
- 5.) Judicial employees shall wear face masks or coverings upon entering the Courthouse.
- 6.) Face masks or coverings shall not be required when an individual is alone in a private office.
- 7.) Judicial employees shall stay home if the employee:
 - a) Is subject to a quarantine or isolation order or is living or caring for such an individual;

- b) Has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine or is living or caring for an individual who has been advised to self-quarantine;
- c) Is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking medical diagnosis, or is living with or caring for such an individual; or
- d) Has tested positive, been diagnosed with, or has had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. In this instance, judicial employees will quarantine for 14 days or seek medical testing.

8.) Occupancy rates of the Courtrooms shall be kept to a maximum of 15 persons whenever possible, under strict social distancing protocols, with only attorneys, parties, witnesses, and court personnel allowed.

9.) Jury trials remain suspended through October 31, 2020.

10.) Judges and court staff are encouraged to continue to use all available technologies to limit in-person courtroom appearances, to the extent not prohibited by Constitutional or statutory law.

11.) For high volume dockets, Courts shall make every effort to stagger the times of the hearings and appearances to limit the number of individuals present inside the Courtroom to a maximum of 15 persons.

12.) Individuals shall remain outside the Courthouse until allowed to enter pursuant to these occupancy limitations.

13.) All previous orders regarding staff and employees of the Fifth Judicial Circuit shall remain in place.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

29 SEPT 2020
Date



Daniel F. Kellogg, Presiding Judge