

7/9/2020

Clerk, U.S. District Court  
District of Montana  
Missoula DivisionIN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANAIN RE: PRECAUTIONARY  
MEASURES IN FEDERAL  
COURTHOUSES DURING THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 20-25

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local public health authorities having advised taking precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19, including maintaining six feet of social distance and the use of face coverings in public settings, and in consultation with the Court Security Committee for the United States Courts for the District of Montana,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that beginning on July 13, 2020, and continuing until further notice, the following protocols shall apply at the James F. Battin Federal Courthouse, the Mike Mansfield Federal Building and United States Courthouse, the Missouri River Federal Courthouse, the Paul G. Hatfield Federal Courthouse, the Russell Smith Federal Courthouse, and the United States Probation Offices located in Browning, Glasgow, and Hardin (hereinafter referred to collectively as “federal court facilities”):

1. All persons over the age of 12 years seeking entry to or occupying a

federal court facility in the District of Montana must wear a mask while in public spaces within the facility. Public spaces include courtrooms, lobbies, hallways, restrooms, and any other unsecured space accessible to the public. The mask, when worn, must completely cover the nose and mouth.

2. To the greatest extent possible, all persons shall maintain a distance of at least six feet from other persons within federal court facilities. This provision shall not apply to members of the same family group, nor shall it be interpreted to prohibit those interpersonal interactions and communications necessary for court staff, attorneys, and other case participants to continue to efficiently and effectively conduct the business of the court.

3. The clerk of court shall provide masks to potential jurors and other one-time visitors to the facility who do not have a mask. Repeat visitors to the federal court facilities—including attorneys—and employees of the United States Courts or of other tenant agencies of federal court facilities are encouraged to provide their own masks. The clerk of court shall maintain a limited supply of masks as needed for repeat visitors and employees who do not have a mask.

4. All persons physically present in the courtroom during hearings or trials shall wear masks. During in-court proceedings, a judge may authorize removal of masks for purposes of witness testimony, defendant identification, making an

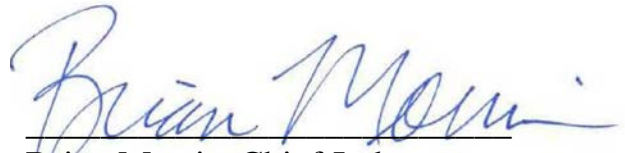
appropriate record, or other reasons as deemed necessary by the judge provided that appropriate social distancing or other protective measures are followed.

5. For grand juries and petit juries, the clerk of court shall arrange for suitable space to enable the jurors to deliberate while maintaining social distance. During deliberations, the jury foreperson may authorize removal of masks as needed to facilitate effective communication among jurors provided that appropriate social distancing or other protective measures are followed.

6. The requirement to wear a mask shall not apply to employees of the United States Courts or of other tenant agencies of federal court facilities when working in a private office or workspace, or when occupying secure (non-public) space which permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons. Employees of the court or other tenant agencies shall wear a mask in all public areas and in secure (non-public) space in which social distancing is not practical.

7. The United States Marshal, his deputies, and the court security officers shall enforce this order by denying entry to any person not wearing a mask and removing from the facility any person who acts in violation of this order. A deputy U.S. marshal or court security officer may direct a person to temporarily lower or remove a mask for purposes of identification or security screening.

Dated this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.



Brian Morris, Chief Judge  
United States District Court



Benjamin P. Hursh, Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court