

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

IN RE: :
 :
COURTHOUSE ACCESS DURING : **STANDING ORDER**
THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK :

This Standing Order is issued in response to the recent outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the District of Delaware. The United States District Court for the District of Delaware is closely monitoring developments with regard to the COVID-19 outbreak. The Court is also closely monitoring the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), State and local public health authorities, and the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. The CDC has noted that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid exposure to the virus and has recommended that precautions be taken to prevent such exposure and reduce the spread of the virus.

Pursuant to the available public health guidance, and in order to protect the health and safety of court personnel and all those entering courthouses, Court locations, and Court offices in the District of Delaware, it is ORDERED the following precautionary measures will be implemented at all courthouses, Court locations, and Court offices in this District, effective immediately:

The following persons shall not enter any courthouse, Court location, or Court office, including Probation and Pretrial Services Offices, in the District of Delaware:

- Persons who, because of exposure to COVID-19 or travel to a country or region with an outbreak of COVID-19, have been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;

- Persons who reside with or have had close contact with someone who has been advised to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had known contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with, COVID-19;
- Persons experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath.

Anyone attempting to enter in violation of these restrictions will be denied entry by Court security personnel. If you feel you have been wrongfully denied entry during business hours to the Courthouse at 844 King Street, you may contact the Chief Judge of the District Court's chambers at 302-573-4571. If you feel you have been wrongfully denied entry during business hours to the Bankruptcy Court's floors at 824 N. Market Street, you may contact the Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court's chambers at 302-252-2888.

Any attorney or party who knows or has reason to believe that any participant in a scheduled hearing, trial, conference, deposition, or other proceeding meets any of the criteria set forth above shall promptly notify opposing counsel and the Court.

If you have a scheduled appointment or you are otherwise required to appear at a courthouse, Court location, or Court office, including a Probation or Pretrial Services Office, in the District of Delaware, and you are unable to appear because of the restrictions listed above, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney.
- If you are an attorney or a pro se litigant and you are scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact that judge's chambers directly (contact information may be found on the websites of either the District Court or the Bankruptcy Court).

- If you are a pro se litigant and you are seeking to file papers with the Clerk's Office, please contact the Clerk's Office at 302-573-6170.
- If you are scheduled to meet with a probation officer or a pretrial services officer, please contact the Probation Office duty officer at 302-252-2950.
- If you are a juror or prospective juror (including a grand juror), please contact the Clerk's Office at 302-573-4530.
- If you are seeking the IRS, please contact the IRS at 302-830-2076.
- If you are seeking the United States Trustee, please contact the United States Trustee at 30-2573-6491.
- For all other matters or questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at 302-573-6170.

These restrictions apply to anyone entering the courthouse, including employees, and will remain in place temporarily until it is determined to be safe to remove them. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

This Order may be updated as further guidance is received.



Chief Judge Leonard P. Stark

Date: March 17, 2020