

Supreme Court of the State of New York

Appellate Division: Second Department

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 - NEW COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Effective September 15, 2022, the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, will implement the following COVID-19 guidelines of the Office of Court Administration.

Covid-19 Protocol: Face masks will no longer be required for any persons, regardless of vaccination status, in a Unified Court System facility, with two exceptions:

- Return from Isolation: Any person, including judges, non-judicial personnel and court visitors, returning from isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 entering a UCS facility must wear a well-fitting, disposable, non-woven mask in all areas and at all times in a UCS facility for 5 calendar days from the end of their isolation; and
- Exposure to Someone with COVID-19: All individuals, after coming into close contact with someone with COVID-19, defined by the CDC as within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes within a 24-hour period, must wear a well-fitting, disposable, non-woven mask at all times around others and in all areas of our courts or facilities for the next 10 calendar days.

As a result of these changes in our Mask Policy, UCS has discontinued its Orange Card and Green/White Pass programs. No identification cards or passes are required to be displayed to enter and remain in a UCS facility without a mask.

You SHOULD NOT enter the Courthouse if you are SYMPTOMATIC or COVID-19 POSITIVE:

A “Symptomatic Person” is any individual who:

- a) has any COVID-19 symptoms, e.g. cough, sore throat, temperature of 100.0° or higher, shortness of breath within the last 24 hours.

A “COVID Positive Person” is an individual who:

- b) has been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 5 days:
or
- c) has been directed to isolate and/or self-monitor after testing positive to COVID-19 by any doctor, hospital or public health official/agency and has not obtained medical clearance to appear in public.

Symptomatic or COVID Positive Persons having business before the court should contact the court by telephone or email. Please use the Contact Us tab on the website [Appellate Division-Second Judicial Department\(nycourts.gov\)](https://www.nycourts.gov) under General Information to find the appropriate telephone number or email address for your inquiry.

Voluntary Masking – Any person may wear a mask in a court facility if they choose. Those individuals who have weakened or compromised immune systems, are at increased risk for severe disease because of age or medical condition or live in the same household as someone with those risk factors, may want to wear a mask in a UCS facility.

Uniformed court personnel may inquire to ensure you understand and are in compliance with this directive. These protocols are subject to modification based on additional guidance from the CDC and New York State Department of Health.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN ENSURING
THE SAFETY OF ALL COURT STAFF AND USERS**