

# **Notice to In-Person Oral Argument Participants** **Regarding Courthouse Protocols**

**In anticipation of in-person Oral Arguments at the Third Department,  
please be advised of the following protocols:**

- **All attorneys or self-represented litigants seeking entry to the Courthouse will be screened by security to determine whether they are a "Person at Risk" with respect to COVID-19. A "Person at Risk" is any individual who:**
  - **has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has not obtained medical clearance to appear in public; or**
  - **has had close conduct with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last 14 days and (1) is not exempt from quarantine or (2) has not obtained medical clearance to appear in public;<sup>1</sup> or**
  - **has been directed to quarantine, isolate and/or self-monitor due to COVID-19 by any doctor, hospital or public health official/agency and has not obtained medical clearance to appear in public; or**
  - **has traveled internationally in the last 10 days and has not tested out of quarantine or otherwise obtained medical clearance to appear in public;<sup>2</sup> or**
  - **has any COVID-19 symptoms, e.g. cough, sore throat, temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher, shortness of breath.**
- **All attorneys or self-represented litigants will be required to undergo temperature screening and will not be permitted to pass through security if they have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher, or otherwise qualify as a Person at Risk.**

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<sup>1</sup> Individuals who have been in close contact with someone that has COVID-19 but can show that they are fully vaccinated or that they previously tested positive for COVID-19 but have recovered within the last three months are permitted to enter the Courthouse (so long as the individual has no COVID-19 symptoms). In such a case, the individual must provide either (1) a photocopy of photo of a vaccination card to demonstrate full vaccination status or (2) a record from a health care provider demonstrating recent recovery from COVID.

<sup>2</sup> To test out of quarantine after international travel, the individual must show they tested negative on a viral test given between three and five days from when they returned to the US, as long as at least seven days have passed since they returned from the US and they have no COVID-19 symptoms. A hard copy or electronic documentation showing dates of travel as well as a negative test result will establish that the individual has tested out of quarantine.

- **For the safety of all court users and court personnel, you must wear a mask or face covering while inside the courthouse. Persons without a mask or face covering will not be permitted to enter.**
- **Masks or face coverings must be worn by all persons in the Courtroom, including court personnel and judges, at all times, including during oral arguments.**
- **For the purposes of continuing to reduce density and ensure social distancing, the Courtroom will be closed to the general public, and only participating attorneys or self-represented litigants will be permitted through the security check point. However, all arguments are broadcast live on the Court's website.**
- **You may be asked to remain on the Concourse level until your case is ready to be heard. Please remain near the security post on the Concourse level so that you can be advised when you should report to the Courtroom.**
- **The occupancy for the restrooms is limited. Please use restrooms on the concourse level.**
- **The attorneys' room is closed and will not be available for use.**
- **Social distancing is required at all times. Please ensure that you keep a distance of at least six feet from all persons at all times, including while in the Courtroom.**
- **To reduce density, please exit the fifth floor immediately after arguments for your case are completed.**

**Additional important information:**

- **Attorneys tables and the podium will be cleaned in between the presentation of each argument.**