

Supreme Court of the State of New York

Appellate Division: Second Department

JUNE 16, 2022 IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

Beginning June 16, 2022, the Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department, will implement the following COVID-19 guidelines of the Office of Court Administration.

All persons entering the courthouse or other UCS facilities who are unable to establish that they have been vaccinated in conformity with these guidelines are required to wear a mask or facial covering at all times and will be subject to COVID-19 screening and temperature checks. The following guidelines apply to all fully vaccinated individuals:

Green Passes for Attorneys and Agency Staff who regularly conduct business inside a court facility may submit one of the following items and receive a green Attorney/Agency pass that will permit them to by-pass the daily health safety screening (subject to the direction below) and conduct their business in all areas of the courthouse without wearing a mask or face covering:

- proof of full vaccination (defined as two weeks after the second of two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or the single dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine) **within the last year**; or
- proof of booster or additional dose(s) (subsequent to the initial full vaccination) **within the last year**.

To obtain this pass, attorneys and agency personnel must show a valid secure pass or valid office/agency identification card, along with proof of vaccination as defined above, in the name of the person matching the identification card to a court officer at the court facility entrance. Acceptable proofs of COVID-19 vaccination include:

- COVID-19 vaccination card;
- Photograph of a COVID-19 vaccination card contained on a mobile device; or
- COVID-19 Vaccination New York State Excelsior Pass Plus

Participating attorneys and agency personnel will be issued a green Attorney/Agency pass valid for six months from the date of issuance or one year from the date of their last vaccination or booster dose, **whichever is shorter**.

White Passes for Other Court Users

Other court users may submit one of the following items and receive a white Visitor pass that permits them to bypass the health safety screening and enter the court facility for a limited time without a mask or face covering:

- proof of full vaccination (defined as two weeks after the second of two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or the single dose of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine) **within the last year**; or
- proof of booster or additional dose(s) (subsequent to the initial full vaccination) **within the last year**.

The court user must possess a valid government identification card which matches the name on a proof of vaccination, as defined above. These items should be shown to the court officer upon entry into the court facility. Acceptable proofs of COVID-19 vaccination include:

- COVID-19 vaccination card;
- Photograph of a COVID-19 vaccination card contained on a mobile device; or
- COVID-19 Vaccination Excelsior Pass Plus

The green pass or white lapel sticker must be displayed on the outermost portion of clothing at all times when inside a court facility.

Requirement to self-assess health condition

The court officer issuing the green or white pass will advise the holder that they must follow all UCS COVID-19 protocols; they will not be screened by court officers but they must self-assess their health condition before entering a UCS facility and not enter if they would have answered “yes” to one or more of the COVID health safety screening questions listed on the courthouse entry signs; and must wear a well-fitting mask when returning from isolation or quarantine, per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines outlined below.

Persons Returning from Isolation or Quarantine

All persons leaving isolation or quarantine, regardless of vaccination status or card/pass eligibility, must wear a well-fitting mask for the period recommended by the CDC, i.e., persons who have tested positive, experienced symptoms, or had close contact with someone who had COVID-19 within the previous 10 days.

Voluntary Masking

Please keep in mind, that anyone may continue to wear a mask in a court facility, if they choose.

Distancing

Three feet physical distancing is no longer required in any area.

****Thank you for your cooperation to ensure the safety of all court staff and users.****