

**In the Franklin County Municipal Court
Columbus, Ohio**

Administrative Order Number: 09-2020

Effective: 5.26.20

The Findings of Fact stated in Administrative Orders 05-2020, 06-2020, and 07-2020 are hereby incorporated by reference into this Administrative Order, and are further supplemented as follows:

- I. On April 3, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a recommendation entitled “Recommendation Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission.” The recommendation states:

We now know from recent studies that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity—for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing—even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms. In light of this new evidence, CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.
- II. The guidance issued by the Supreme Court of Ohio on May 8, 2020, entitled “Responsible RestartOhio Court Access,” states: “Courts must establish policies that * * * require face coverings for employees and the public.”
- III. Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that a person with a fever may have COVID-19, and that “fever is defined as subjective fever (feeling feverish) or a measured temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.” See “Public Health Recommendations for Community-Related Exposure” (Mar. 30, 2020).
- IV. In *Stone v. Hon. Judge Ronald Forsthoefel*, 2020-0547 (Apr. 27, 2020), the Supreme Court of Ohio dismissed the complaint for writs of prohibition and mandamus, and issued orders requiring the Ashland County Common Pleas Court to “ensure that no individual entering the courtroom [during the trial in question] is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of 100°F or higher.”
- V. In email correspondence to Ohio Judges, Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor urged courts to consider the following:

“Limit access to the building and monitor all who come into the court building to assess their health. Social distancing, masks, cleaning, etc. as outlined in the

Responsible RestartOhio General Office Environments document must be in place for everyone. This includes employees, contractors, litigants, attorneys, etc. Also no one exhibiting signs of illness, including a temperature of 100.4 degrees, should be admitted or allowed to stay.”

This Administrative Order is intended to protect public health, to maintain essential court functions, and to continue to protect the rights of all individuals subject to the authority of the Court.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Individuals not wearing a face covering that will offer protection against the spread of the COVID-19 virus shall not be admitted into any building in which the Franklin County Municipal Court is conducting official court proceedings, including 375 South High Street in Columbus, Ohio.

2. Everyone attempting to enter a building in which the Franklin County Municipal Court is conducting official court proceedings, including 375 South High Street in Columbus, Ohio, shall be subjected to a screening that will consist at least of a temperature check and perhaps answering several screening questions.

Anyone registering a temperature of 100.4 or over, or self-reporting symptoms of COVID-19, shall be refused admittance to the building. Such a person may request a second temperature check after 15 minutes. Anyone who is symptomatic of COVID-19 will be refused admission to the building, and will be directed to seek medical attention. Anyone refused admission to the building pursuant to this order, who has arrived timely and who provides information concerning the case for which they attempted to enter the building, will be granted a continuance of their case for a period of at least two weeks.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

5.19.20

Date



**Judge Ted Barrows
Administrative and Presiding Judge**