

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**GENERAL ORDER #61**

**May 13, 2020**

**IN RE: CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY  
ORDER CONCERNING FACE MASKS/COVERINGS IN PUBLIC  
AREAS OF NDNV COURTHOUSES**

WHEREAS this Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice during this period of national emergency; and

WHEREAS, public health authorities have advised, and continue to advise, public and private agencies to continue to take necessary and appropriate precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) and slow the spread of the disease;

WHEREAS, as a result of COVID-19, there is currently in place a “stay at home” directive from the Governor of the State of New York relative to travel outside of the home and gathering of groups in public settings; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New York recently directed that all New Yorkers wear a mask or face covering when out in public. Specifically, the Governor directed that masks or face coverings be worn by customers and workers at businesses that are essential and remain open within the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Court is advised that all agencies within the Courthouses, including but not limited to, the employees of the U.S. Marshal Service, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Court Security Officers, and U.S. General Services Administration, will begin to wear masks or facial coverings in the public areas of the courthouse; and

WHEREAS, as a public institution committed to the sound administration of equal justice under law, the Court is essential and remains open with limited staff (See General Order #58); and

WHEREAS, this Court will continue to take reasonable and prudent actions to further that mission consistent with public health needs and the health needs of its staff, members of the public, and others that enter the courthouses of this District.

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to continue to further public health and safety, the health and safety of Court personnel, counsel, litigants, other case participants, vendors, contractors, and the general public, and in the spirit of the guidance issued by the Governor of the State of New York:

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the following persons shall not enter any United States Courthouse in the Northern District of New York:

1. Persons not wearing a mask or face covering;
2. Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital or health agency;
3. Persons who have been diagnosed with, or have had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID 19; or
4. Persons with fever, cough or shortness of breath.

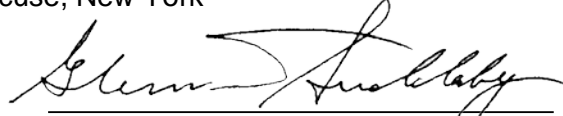
**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that visitors to the Court, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and other members of the public, shall be required to wear a mask or a face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouse. The requirement to wear facial masks/coverings in internal space will be determined by each agency or court unit.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that visitors shall remain in designated public areas and failure to abide by these restrictions may result in their expulsion from the facility.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that court security staff is authorized to enforce the above listed requirements and deny entry to or expel non-complying individuals.

This Order shall be effective Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> and remain in effect under amended or vacated by the undersigned.

Dated this 13th day of May, 2020 at Syracuse, New York



Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby, Chief Judge