

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
AMENDED GENERAL ORDER 21-0006**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

**IN RE: AMENDED PLAN FOR THE SAFE RESUMPTION  
OF JURY TRIALS AND COURT OPERATIONS**

Due to the continued significant health risks generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court has been required to restrict certain aspects of its operations, such as jury trials. To conduct in-person operations safely, the Court will continue a modified testing protocol to help ensure that those who work in the Courthouse do not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of other Courthouse workers or visitors to the Courthouse. This Amended General Order supersedes the February 17, 2021 General Order in its entirety. It is, therefore, hereby ORDERED that effective Monday, September 20, 2021:

1. The Clerk of the United States District Court is authorized and directed to continue the agreement with SHIELD Illinois to conduct a saliva-based COVID-19 screening program. In light of the dangers created by asymptomatic spread of the virus and its variants, the Court deems this non-invasive testing program to be job-related and consistent with the Court's operational requirements.
2. Employees, contractors, judges, and staff of other agencies who are assigned to work with potential jurors and persons selected for petit jury (hereinafter employees) will be required to participate in the COVID-19 screening program and provide a saliva sample for screening-based testing. These employees will be required to submit to testing twice a week. Test results will be provided only to the persons tested. The employee must, however, report their positive test results to their employer.
3. Potential jurors and persons selected for petit jury service will be tested. The Court will inform jurors of the testing program. The Court will seek their consent to be tested and have their results shared with the Court's Jury Department. If an empaneled juror tests positive for the virus, the Jury Department will subsequently notify the judge assigned to the case that a juror tested positive. Empaneled jurors shall be tested twice a week.

4. Any individual whose participation in the courtroom during a jury trial will exceed two days will be required to submit to testing or will be required to participate remotely only. The Clerk's Office will subsequently notify the judge assigned to the case that an individual covered under this paragraph tested positive.
5. Any employee or case participant exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual while present at either Courthouse or while in the performance of their official work duties may participate in the screening program.
6. All positive test results will be reported to the Illinois Department of Public Health in accordance with the Illinois Control of Communicable Diseases Code (77 Ill. Adm. Code 690.200(a)(5)).
7. Any individual who has religious or medical objections to the saliva-based testing protocol is directed to notify the Chief Judge of the District Court in writing, setting forth the specific concerns to enable the Court to propose a reasonable accommodation.
8. This Order does not supersede the requirement to wear a face mask within the Courthouse. All other safety measures such as physical distance, regular handwashing, and limited elevator traffic remain in effect during the pendency of this Order.

ENTER:

FOR THE COURT:



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Chief Judge

Dated at Chicago, Illinois this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021