

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

FORSYTH COUNTY GEORGIA
FILED IN THIS OFFICE

MAY 14 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 21- 7

M. J. Oll
CLERK SUPERIOR COURT

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING WEARING OF FACE MASKS AND
SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE FORSYTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

The Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit continues to closely monitor state and local responses to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and follow guidance provided by state and local public health agencies and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure for all people present in the Forsyth County Courthouse, the Court orders that the following health measures be observed. These measures are necessary to reduce the risk of exposure for people visiting or working in the courthouse until this Coronavirus outbreak has abated and the Court issues an order relaxing these restrictions.

A. Admission to the Courthouse

1. All persons entering the Courthouse shall be screened for cough, fever, and recent exposure to COVID-19. Individuals with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater will not be permitted to enter the Courthouse.
2. Court Security shall inquire of all persons whether they have been vaccinated for COVID-19. For persons who have been vaccinated, no face mask is required to be worn. Persons who have not been vaccinated shall wear a face mask or face covering when entering the Courthouse and shall continue to wear a face mask or face covering at all times while in the public areas of the Courthouse. (Face masks will be provided at the door if needed.) Public areas include courtrooms, security reception, hallways and corridors, rest rooms, and any other area in which members of the public are permitted. An appropriate face mask or face covering is one that covers the wearer's nose and mouth with fabric or filter material, preventing the circulation of air, particles, and other discharges.

B. Movement Within the Courthouse

1. People visiting the Courthouse must remain at least six feet away from all other persons, at all times while in the Courthouse. (People who have been vaccinated or are related or living together are not required to maintain that distance from each other.) People using courthouse facilities or areas that are marked to indicate required

distances between people must observe the markings unless that have been vaccinated.

2. No one shall board a public elevator with more than three occupants, except those whom they are related to or with whom they have traveled to court or if they have been vaccinated, provided the elevator is empty.
3. Court visitors shall not congregate or loiter in the hallways in a way which obstructs other persons' access to elevators, offices, or courtrooms.
4. All people visiting the Courthouse are encouraged to wash their hands frequently while present in the Courthouse. Handwashing may be done in the courthouse restrooms. Court visitors are also encouraged to use hand sanitizer while in the courthouse. Hand sanitizer dispensers can be found in the elevator bays, outside restrooms, and outside every courtroom.
5. Court visitors shall comply with directives of court staff and security personnel regarding appropriate distancing.

C. Admission to the Courtrooms

1. To allow for distanced seating, each person shall sit in a space marked with a tab. No one shall sit in a space not tabbed unless they are together or they have been vaccinated.
2. If a person is notified that a courtroom is full, they must follow the instructions of court staff and court security for alternative seating.
3. A face mask or face covering shall be worn at all times while in the courtroom unless the person has been vaccinated or as otherwise direct by a judicial officer.
4. Court visitors shall comply with directives of court staff and court security regarding appropriate distancing.
5. Due to limited seating, persons with business before the Court are encouraged not to bring non-essential persons with them.
6. Persons with cases on the calendar shall be given priority for seating in the active courtroom.

D. Courthouse Personnel

1. All courthouse personnel who have not been vaccinated shall continue to wear a face mask covering their nose and mouth, except that any courthouse employee who is not sharing an office space or cubicle with another person, or who can maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from co-employees or others even though sharing an office, may remove a mask while in such office. Otherwise, masks shall be continuously worn by courthouse personnel during the time they are in the Courthouse unless they have been vaccinated.
2. Employees with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or greater, will not be permitted to enter the Courthouse.

3. Unvaccinated employees who are unable to maintain prescribed social distancing with their clients shall wear a face shield in addition to the required face mask or face covering. (Pretrial Services, Accountability Court, etc.)
4. Unvaccinated employees engaging in the frequent transfer of documents (court documents, mail, newspapers, etc.) shall wear disposable gloves when engaging in these activities.
5. Frequent handwashing should be performed after being in a public area, sneezing, coughing, or touching your eyes nose or mouth. Hand sanitizer should be used if handwashing is not readily available.
6. Personal work spaces shall be cleaned and sanitized regularly.

E. Courthouse Security

Unvaccinated law enforcement and security personnel shall wear a face mask or face covering at all security or screening stations as well as all public areas of the Courthouse.

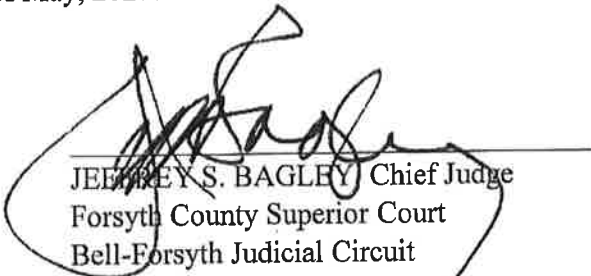
F. Isolation and Quarantine

Isolation shall be required of any person with known or suspected COVID-19 exposure in accordance with Department of Public Health Seventh Amended Administrative Order attached as Exhibit "A" hereto.

Quarantine shall be required of any person with COVID-19 exposure likely to result in infection in accordance with the Department of Public Health Seventh Amended Administrative Order attached as Exhibit "A" hereto.

This administrative Order shall remain in effect until amended or withdrawn by future order of the Court.

SO ORDERED, this 14th day of May, 2021.


JEFFREY S. BAGLEY Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit



**STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SEVENTH AMENDED¹ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES**

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health State of Emergency has been extended through and including July 12, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the number of cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents a severe threat to public health in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease that is transmitted primarily through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, although the vast majority of Georgians are complying with public health recommendations and guidance for the isolation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19, I have received reliable reports that a small number of persons may be behaving in a way that contributes to the spread of this disease in the community; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to require persons who:

- have received a positive lab-confirmed test for COVID-19, or
- are suspected to have COVID-19 based on symptoms recognized by the CDC,
or
- have been in close contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19

to isolate or quarantine themselves at home, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia’s healthcare system.

¹ This Fourth Amended Administrative Order amends and supersedes the prior Orders issued on March 21 and 23, April 3 and 15, May 5 and 12, and June 2, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4(4) and 31-12-4, Chapter 511-9-1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Public Health (“Department”), and Governor Kemp’s Executive Orders,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

Isolation

1. *Persons With Known COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or clinical laboratory of a positive laboratory-confirmed test for COVID-19, the person testing positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
2. *Persons With Suspected COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider or public health official that COVID-19 infection is diagnosed or suspected based on symptoms, the person with suspected COVID-19 infection shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department. As of the date of this Order, the CDC recognizes the following symptoms of COVID-19 infection: fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.
3. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Isolation Protocol attached to this Order, which may be updated from time to time based on CDC guidance.
4. Each isolated person shall remain in isolation until such time as he or she no longer presents a risk of infection to the public, as determined by the Isolation Protocol then in effect. As of the date of this Administrative Order, the Isolation Protocol requires an isolated person to remain in isolation until either:
 - the person’s fever has been gone for at least seventy-two (72) hours, without taking fever-reducing medication, and
 - the person’s other symptoms have shown progressive improvement, and
 - at least ten (10) days have elapsed from the date symptoms began,

or

 - for a person who was placed under home isolation due to a laboratory-confirmed positive test result, but who has

experienced no symptoms of COVID-19, until at least ten (10) days have elapsed since the date of the person's first positive diagnostic test.

5. Isolated persons should monitor their symptoms and seek prompt medical attention if worsening symptoms develop, as instructed in the Isolation Protocol. An exception to the requirement for isolation applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person's health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.
6. Each isolated person shall cooperate with state and local public health personnel by answering questions as necessary to identify and locate those persons with whom the isolated person has been in close contact (within six (6) feet for fifteen (15) minutes or more) beginning two (2) days before symptoms began or, for isolated persons who have experienced no symptoms of COVID-19, beginning two (2) days before the test sample was obtained. If requested by public health personnel, the isolated person shall provide a list of the locations visited by the isolated person during the time frame that he or she may have been able to transmit the disease.

Quarantine

7. *Persons With COVID-19 Exposure Likely to Result in Infection.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or isolated person of exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact (within six (6) feet for fifteen (15) minutes or more) with a person who must be isolated as provided herein, the person so exposed shall immediately quarantine himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
8. Each quarantined person shall remain at home or in the approved quarantine location for a period of fourteen (14) days from the person's last known exposure to COVID-19. An exception to the requirement for quarantine applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person requires treatment in a healthcare facility. Health care providers, emergency medical services workers, first responders, and other critical infrastructure workers may continue to work, in consultation with their workplace occupational health program and if necessary to ensure adequate staffing, so long as they are asymptomatic, don masks while on duty, and comply with all other quarantine requirements for the duration of the fourteen (14) day period.
9. During the period of quarantine, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person experiences symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (a measured temperature

over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell, the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation set forth above.

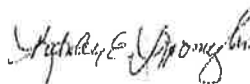
Staff members of the Department remain available at 866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584) to provide assistance and counseling to persons subject to this Administrative Order concerning their illness or exposure and their compliance with this Order. During the period of isolation or quarantine, the ability of persons subject to this Order to communicate with others outside the isolation or quarantine site, including their ability to exchange confidential communications with legal and medical advisors of their own choosing, will be preserved and facilitated to the extent possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the isolation or quarantine.

Failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor offense pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-5-8. If the Department has reasonable grounds to believe that a person subject to quarantine or isolation refuses to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Department may provide information to law enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance and facilitate criminal prosecution.

Further, any person who refuses to isolate or quarantine himself or herself as required by this Order may be subject to such further action as may be necessary to protect the public's health.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days following the end of the Public Health State of Emergency declared in Executive Order 03.14.20.01 and as extended thereafter.

SO ORDERED, this 16th day of June, 2020.



Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
State Health Officer

Attachment:

Georgia Department of Public Health Isolation Protocol