

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF ARKANSAS**

IN RE: RECOMMENDATION FOR MASKS OR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**

Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was updated on February 25, 2022. The CDC update specifically revised mask guidelines. Under previous guidelines, masks were recommended for individuals in communities with substantial or high transmission of COVID-19 cases. Now, individuals in areas deemed to have low levels of the disease no longer need to wear masks indoors and individuals in areas with medium transmission of the disease should wear masks if they are at heightened risk of severe disease, like those who have compromised immune systems. Individuals in areas with a high level of transmission should still wear masks indoors. COVID-19 cases have fallen greatly since January's surge of the omicron variant; however, the Court recognizes that there are still individuals who are immunocompromised, people with disabilities, and others who are at higher risk for serious illness and face other challenges dealing with COVID-19. In an effort to continue to protect the health and safety of court personnel and the public, the judges hereby adopt safety protocols for the courthouse in Little Rock.


Effective, March 22, 2022, and until further notice, masks and cloth face coverings are recommended but not required for persons (including but not limited to employees, security personnel, litigants, attorneys and staff, vendors, and contractors) entering the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, 300 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Little Rock, Arkansas. Masks and cloth face coverings are still highly recommended as an additional protective and preventive measure where social distancing cannot be maintained.

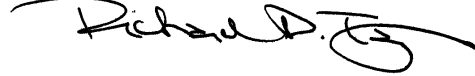
During in-person proceedings in courtrooms, the mask or face covering requirement shall be at the discretion of the presiding judge.


**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated this 22nd day of March, 2022.

**FOR THE COURT**

  
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PHYLLIS M. JONES  
CHIEF U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

  
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RICHARD D. TAYLOR  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

  
Date: 03/22/2022  
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BIANCA M. RUCKER  
U.S. BANKRUPTCY JUDGE