

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

IN RE:  
MASKING IN COURTROOM

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MISC. NO. 00-308

**STANDING ORDER 2023-06**

Since March 16, 2020, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, this Court has issued several orders restricting who may enter the Courthouses, the manner in which civil and criminal proceedings will be conducted, whether petit and grand juries may safely assemble, and many other areas of court operations. In Standing Order 2022-05, this Court lifted many restrictions and returned to full and (nearly) unrestricted operations, but continued to require the wearing of masks for prospective jurors while participating in voir dire in the courtroom and, subject to the discretion of the presiding judge, requiring that all or some of the court participants, jurors, and/or spectators be required to wear a mask while in the courtroom. In light of the endemic nature of COVID-19, the Court finds it appropriate to lift the last remaining restriction on its operations. Accordingly, Standing Order 2022-05 is hereby VACATED. The wearing of masks by court participants, sitting and prospective jurors, and/or spectators in individual proceedings shall be optional unless otherwise directed by the presiding judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2023.

/s/ JAMES K. BREDAR  
James K. Bredar, Chief Judge  
United States District Court