

**Court Information Release**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**Release Date:**  
August 6, 2021

**Contact:** Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court  
U.S. District Court for the  
Southern District of Texas  
515 Rusk St., Ste. 5401  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713-250-5400

**Re: General Order 2021-15**

**COVID-19 Vaccination or Twice Weekly Testing to be Required for Employees of  
the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts Southern District of Texas**

The judges of the Southern District of Texas have decided that all employees and on-site contractors of the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts and Probation/Pretrial Services Office for the Southern District of Texas are required to show proof of vaccination or provide proof of approved negative test results twice a week. Unvaccinated employees and on-site contractors will be prohibited from work-related travel.

This order is in addition to the district-wide policy for the Southern District of Texas requiring all courthouse employees who work with venire panels and jurors to be both vaccinated and masked, and is in addition to courthouse policies on masking and social distancing.

COVID-19 vaccinations are the best available line of defense against this virus. Many of us work directly with the public, and all of us have a responsibility not only to one another, but also to the members of our community who come before us.

When members of the public enter our courthouses, they can be assured that the court has made every effort to keep them safe from COVID-19.

All employees and on-site contractors of the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts and Probation/Pretrial Services Office for the Southern District of Texas will be required to show proof of vaccination or submit the first of the required approved negative test results by August 16, 2021.

This order is part of the court's multistep strategy to increase safety for our employees and the communities we serve.