

July 1, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk 

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION

IN RE: MASK MANDATE IN §
THE BROWNSVILLE DIVISION §
UNDER THE EXIGENT § SPECIAL ORDER B-2021-04
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED §
BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC §

ORDER

Effective July 6, 2021, the wearing of masks is optional for vaccinated persons who enter the Reynaldo G. Garza – Filemon B. Vela United States Courthouse in Brownsville, Texas. Persons who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing in courthouse public areas. Mask wearing inside courtrooms is at the discretion of each presiding judicial officer. This order applies to employees, contractors, jurors and prospective jurors, lawyers, litigants, witnesses, family members, court observers, and other members of the public.

This order is subject 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.

The court ORDERS that all persons entering the courthouse of the Southern District of Texas, Brownsville Division use the automated temperature scanner located on the first floor. The court further ORDERS that the following persons may not enter the courthouse:

- Unvaccinated persons who, in the last 14 days, have been in any of the countries covered by the Level 3 Travel Health Notice on COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including those listed on the sign at the entrance to the courthouse;
- Unvaccinated persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has been in one of the countries listed above within the last 14 days;

- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency;
- Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 30 days;
- Unvaccinated persons who have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 30 days; and
- Persons with a fever of at least 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (as measured by the automated temperature scanner on the first floor of the courthouse), cough, or shortness of breath.


Anyone meeting any of the Criteria listed above may be denied entry to the courthouse or any part thereof by any Deputy United States Marshal or Court Security Officer.

This order remains in place subject to further court order.

Signed this 1st day of July, 2021.



Rolando Olvera, U.S. District Judge



Fernando Rodriguez, Jr., U.S. District Judge