



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Office of the District Court Executive

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief Judge

EDWARD A. FRIEDLAND
District Court Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Persons
FROM: SDNY COVID-19 Response Team
DATE: January 12, 2022
SUBJECT: COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS OR
EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

Effective today, the following COVID-19 Protocols apply to all those seeking to enter the courthouses:

If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days, please consult the COVID-19 Response Team at COVID_Response@nysd.uscourts.gov for guidance on when you may enter the courthouse. The following guidance applies to those who have not tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days.

If you have had symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 10 days that are not explained by allergies or another underlying condition, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, extreme fatigue, nausea or vomiting, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, and diarrhea:

- If you are **unvaccinated** or are more than six months out from your second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, you are not permitted to enter the courthouse.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted**, you may enter the courthouse provided your symptoms have resolved and you received a negative result on a molecular diagnostic test (e.g., PCR).

If you have been in close contact* with someone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days:

- If you are **unvaccinated** or are more than six months out from your second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, you are not permitted to enter the courthouse.

- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted and you have ongoing exposure to the infected person** (e.g., they reside with you), you must wait until 10 days have passed since the start of the infected person's symptoms (or the date that they tested, if they are asymptomatic) and then you must take a rapid test^[1] and a molecular diagnostic test (e.g., PCR). As long as the rapid test is negative, you may enter the courthouse while you are waiting for the results of the molecular diagnostic test.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted and you do not have ongoing exposure to the infected person**, you may enter the courthouse, but you must take a rapid antigen test and a molecular diagnostic test (e.g., PCR) no sooner than 5 days following your exposure. As long as your rapid antigen test is negative, you may enter the courthouse while your molecular diagnostic test results are pending.

If you have been in close contact* in the past 14 days with someone who has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, but has not been diagnosed with COVID-19:

- If you are **unvaccinated** or are more than six months out from your second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, you are not permitted to enter the courthouse.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted**, you are permitted to enter the courthouse.

If you live with someone who is currently under quarantine because they had close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 (e.g., they were exposed at school or at work):

- If you are **unvaccinated** or are more than six months out from your second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, you are not permitted to enter the courthouse until the person's quarantine has ended.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted**, you are permitted to enter the courthouse.

*Close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet away from the infected person for a cumulative total of 10 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (e.g., two individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 10 minutes).

Any questions regarding the Court's COVID-19 Protocols should be directed to the COVID-19 Response Team at Covid_Response@nysd.uscourts.gov.

^[1] Antigen tests and at-home test kits are acceptable for this purpose, as long as they are approved or authorized by the FDA.