



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: April 15, 2022 (rev. April 28, 2022)
SUBJECT: COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOLLOWING POSITIVE
DIAGNOSIS, SYMPTOMS OR EXPOSURE TO COVID-19

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

For purposes of these protocols, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day on which the individual's COVID-19 positive test specimen was collected, whichever was earlier. Day 1 is the first full day after symptoms developed or the test specimen was collected, whichever was earlier.

I was recently diagnosed with COVID-19. May I enter the courthouses?

If you tested positive for COVID-19, or you were instructed by a health care provider to assume that you have COVID-19 due to symptoms and/or exposure, you must remain out of the courthouses at least through the end of Day 5. Please read on to determine when you may return.

- You may only return to the courthouses between Day 6 and Day 10 if the following criteria are met:
 - you test negative on two molecular diagnostic tests (e.g., PCR) taken at least 24 hours apart; AND
 - you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication); AND
 - your symptoms are improving.
- You may return to the courthouses after Day 10 if the following criteria are met:
 - you are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication); AND
 - your symptoms are improving.
- Wear a well-fitting N95, KN95 or KF94 mask through the end of Day 10 in all spaces within the courthouses, unless you are a testifying witness.

I experienced symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 10 days, but I did not receive a positive diagnosis. May I enter the courthouses?

If you 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 **fully vaccinated and boosted, or you were diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days**, you may enter the courthouses provided your symptoms have resolved and you received a negative result on a molecular diagnostic test (e.g., PCR).
- 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 courthouses.

The following protocols apply only to those seeking entry to the courthouses who have NOT been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days. If you had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, are symptom-free and are not restricted from entry based on the protocols set forth above, then you may enter the courthouses without following the protocols below, even if you were recently exposed to someone who may have COVID-19.

I was in close contact* with someone who has COVID-19. May I enter the courthouses?

*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).

If you were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 during the time-period starting 48 hours prior to either the onset of their symptoms or the day on which their positive test specimen was collected and ending on the infected individual's Day 5, then you must abide by the following protocols:

- 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 courthouses for 14 days following your last close contact with the infected individual.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted and have ongoing exposure to the infected person (e.g., they reside with you)**, you must remain out of the courthouses until at least 10 days have passed since the infected individual's Day 0.
 - You may only return to the courthouses between the infected individual's Day 10 and

Day 24 if you receive a negative test result on a rapid test and a molecular diagnostic test (e.g., PCR) taken during that time-period. Provided the rapid test is negative, you may enter the courthouses while you are waiting for the results of the molecular diagnostic test. Antigen tests are acceptable for the rapid test.

- You may return to the courthouses after the infected individual's Day 24 without having to provide proof of a negative test result.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted and do not have ongoing exposure to the infected person**, you may enter the courthouses, provided you abide by the following test-to-stay protocol:
 - On Day 3 following the last close contact, take a rapid test (rapid antigen tests and rapid molecular diagnostic (e.g., PCR) tests are both acceptable); AND
 - On Day 5 following the last close contact, take a molecular diagnostic test (e.g., PCR). If the molecular diagnostic test results are not provided to you on the same day, then you must take an additional rapid test on day 5 (antigen tests are acceptable).

I was recently in close contact* with someone who had symptoms of COVID-19, but they don't have a diagnosis of COVID-19. May I enter the courthouses?

*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).

If you were in close contact with someone who was exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 that are not explained by allergies or an underlying condition, and the person does not have a COVID-19 diagnosis:

- 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 courthouses until 14 days have passed since your last close contact with the symptomatic individual.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted**, you are permitted to enter the courthouses.

I live with someone who is currently under quarantine because they had close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. May I enter the courthouses?

- 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 courthouses until the person's quarantine has been completed.
- If you are **fully vaccinated and boosted**, you are permitted to enter the courthouses.

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