

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

IN RE: DISTRICT OF HAWAII  
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

General Order 22-03

**TEMPORARY GENERAL ORDER REGARDING  
DISTRICT OF HAWAII RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC,  
EFFECTIVE MARCH 26, 2022**

This Temporary General Order is effective as of March 26, 2022 and supersedes General Order 22-02, the Court's "January 21, 2022 Temporary General Order Regarding District of Hawaii Response to COVID-19 Pandemic." Further, the Court's October 28, 2021 Temporary General Order Regarding District of Hawaii Requirements for Counsel in Response to Covid-19 Pandemic is vacated.

The Court continues to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in the State of Hawaii and the rest of the United States and has carefully considered the need to protect the public, court employees, jurors, litigants, and counsel from being exposed to COVID-19. Considering: (1) the ongoing threat that COVID-19 poses in the State of Hawaii; (2) a significant portion of the State of Hawaii's population has been fully vaccinated; (3) the number of residents infected with COVID-19 has dropped substantially in recent weeks; and (4) the need for the court to continue its operations, with the agreement of the judges of the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii, the Court orders as follows:

**Mitigation Measures for the Courthouse:**

- The courthouse and the Clerk's Office will be open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, other than on holidays recognized by the Court.

- Persons entering the courthouse will not be required to wear a mask. Exceptions to this rule are:
  - 1) the chief judge has the authority to require the use of facemasks upon entry to the courthouse should it be deemed necessary for public health;
  - 2) the chief judge has the authority to require the use of facemasks in particular areas of the courthouse; and
  - 3) a presiding judge may require the use of facemasks in that judge's courtroom.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be made available throughout the courthouse, including immediately upon entry and by all elevators.
- To the extent practicable, everyone in public areas of the courthouse should avoid gathering in large groups and should maintain a safe distance from others.
- Entry to the courthouse will be denied to anyone, regardless of vaccination status:
  - 1) who has tested positive for COVID-19, unless 10 days have passed since receiving the positive test result;
  - 2) who has been in close proximity (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) to a person known to have COVID-19, unless 5 days have passed since the last contact with the positive individual or the person seeking entry to the courthouse has tested negative for COVID-19 and has been cleared to be in public by a physician;
  - 3) who has symptoms of a COVID-19 infection; or
  - 4) who is required by the State of Hawaii or the City and County of Honolulu to be in self-quarantine.

## Non-Jury Proceedings:

- In order to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission, the Court will make efforts to minimize traffic in the courthouse. Each presiding judge will determine whether civil matters, including case management matters, settlement conferences, and hearings, will be taken off calendar pursuant to Local Rule 7.1, or conducted by telephone, Zoom, or in court.
- Each presiding judge will determine how to proceed with non-jury trials.
- At the discretion of the presiding judge, the Court will continue to conduct certain criminal proceedings by telephone or Zoom as permitted by the Court's most current CARES Act Order.
- Certain criminal proceedings that fall outside the Court's most recent CARES Act Order will be conducted in court.
- If a presiding judge elects to proceed with a hearing by telephone or Zoom, public hearings will be available to members of the public and the media, to the extent permitted and practicable. Specific information will be available on each case's individual docket on PACER, and further instructions can be found on the Court's website. Members of the public and media are strictly prohibited from recording or broadcasting any hearing (whether telephonic or Zoom), in whole or in part, in any fashion. Failure to abide by this restriction may result in sanctions. Further information may be set forth on the Court's website, [www.hid.uscourts.gov](http://www.hid.uscourts.gov), and may change from time to time.
- For registered CM/ECF users, filings will be processed in civil and criminal cases via the CM/ECF electronic system, by mail, in person at the Clerk's Office, or through use of the Court's drop box located outside the courthouse. Sealed matters may be filed by email to the Clerk's Office at [clerks\\_orders@hid.uscourts.gov](mailto:clerks_orders@hid.uscourts.gov).
- Pro se litigants may file by mail, in person at the Clerk's Office, using the Court's drop box, or by email to the Clerk's Office at [hid\\_clerks@hid.uscourts.gov](mailto:hid_clerks@hid.uscourts.gov). File-stamped copies will be returned by United States mail or email. Anyone seeking assistance from the Clerk's Office should call (808) 541-1890. Additional procedures for filing court

documents can be found on the Court's website at the COVID-19 information page at [www.hid.uscourts.gov/covid](http://www.hid.uscourts.gov/covid).

- Parties must provide mandatory chambers copies as required by Local Rule 10.3. Mandatory chambers copies may be mailed as permitted by Local Rule 10.3(c)(2).

**Jury Proceedings:**

- The number of jury trials that can be conducted simultaneously may be limited. After consulting with the Chief Judge, each presiding judge will make a determination as to whether the lack of a courtroom requires the continuation of any specific jury trial.

ORDERED ON BEHALF OF THE COURT:

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, March 18, 2022.



/s/ J. Michael Seabright  
J. Michael Seabright  
Chief United States District Judge