

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF MARIETTA, COBB COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

2022 MAR -8 A 11:06

AMENDED GUIDELINES FOR OPERATING MARIETTA MUNICIPAL COURT DURING THE RECOVERY OF
COVID-19
EFFECTIVE 3/8/2022

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2021, the Georgia Supreme Court Order Declaring Statewide Judicial Emergency expired on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. The termination of said order did not necessarily affect local orders to the extent the judge or judges issuing such orders have authority to issue orders regarding court operations and management.

WHEREAS, on March 2, 2022, Chief Judge Lawrence E. Burke of the Municipal Court of Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia issued Guidelines for Operating Marietta Municipal Court During the Recovery of COVID-19 to reflect changing public health guidance of CDC, DPH and local public health departments so that persons coming to court and court personnel can understand the precautions being taken to protect their health.

WHEREAS, the undersigned continues to monitor the COVID-19 infection rates in our community and all established public health guidance, and it appearing that infection rates are continuing to decline. On March 2, 2022, Chief Justice David E. Nahmias issued a memorandum addressed to Georgia's Judicial Council Members and Partners regarding the CDC's February 25, 2022, update of its mask-wearing guidance to advise that mask wearing in public indoor settings is needed only when COVID-19 cases are straining the healthcare system. Based on the new formula, when counties are in the "low" or "medium" transmission categories, general mask-wearing is no longer recommended. The CDC continues to recommend mask-wearing for certain persons with higher risks of severe illness and for persons emerging from quarantine or isolation due to exposure to or infection of COVID.

WHEREAS, the undersigned has reviewed the current COVID-19 transmission level for our county and taken into consideration the new guidance regarding mask-wearing.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Guidelines for Operating Marietta Municipal Court During the Recovery of Covid-19 is amended to allow individuals to choose to wear masks when in public areas of the court/police building.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Reduce the transmission of COVID-19 among court employees and the public.
- Maintain healthy court operations and facilities for the public.
- Maintain a healthy work environment for court employees.

GENERAL INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES

- Mask-wearing in public areas of the court/police building shall be optional. Court personnel shall provide mask to any individual requesting one while in the courtroom or court conference areas.
- Signage shall be posted at the public entrance directing individuals to self-screen for entry as follows:

Individuals who answer yes to any of the following questions as to the time period within 48 hours prior to entry to the court building, are not to enter the building:

- Temperature of 100.0 or above
- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue, muscle, or body aches
- Headache, new loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat, congestion, or runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

If unable to enter for any of these reasons, signs shall direct the individual how to seek assistance.

- Hand sanitizing stations shall be available in all public areas including the courtroom, lobby and court staff areas.
- Signage shall be posted for proper handwashing as published by the Center for Disease Control and limiting restroom capacity to facilitate social distancing.
- Plexiglass or teller glass windows are to be used to protect court employees and the public when performing both courtroom and non-courtroom interactions/transactions with the public.
- Utilize social distancing through use of floor markers to indicate distance from others when waiting in queue lines for teller windows and entry to courtroom.
- Requirement for a designated building entrance door and a separate door designated for exit.
- Seating in the courtroom shall be configured to accommodate social distancing.
- The court shall conduct virtual hearings by video conference or teleconferencing as deemed necessary.
- The court shall provide a live YouTube link to individuals who want to see proceedings in the courtroom but are unable to do so in person and at any time individuals are denied entry into the courtroom due to space limitations required for social distancing.
- Individuals shall be rotated in and out of the courtroom as quickly as possible to limit contact.
- Conferences being conducted in a private meeting space of the court area shall provide all individuals with social distancing or plexiglass separation, area sanitized and disinfected as frequently as practical by court staff; hand sanitizer shall be available and fully stocked.
- Prior to each court session, court staff shall verify all hand sanitizer stations throughout the courtroom are fully stocked.
- Court staff shall sanitize and disinfect surfaces within the courtroom as frequently as practical during court proceedings.
- Court employees shall disinfect and sanitize daily or as frequently as possible their personal workspace/equipment and shared work surfaces/equipment and will be provided with hand sanitizer and other disinfecting and sanitizing materials.
- This court shall utilize video conferencing for inmate proceedings whenever possible.
- City of Marietta Property Management shall:
 - Coordinate the cleaning and sanitizing of the public and court staff restrooms no less than twice daily (mid-morning and mid-afternoon).
 - Restrooms shall always be well-stocked with soap and paper towels.
- The Marietta Police Department shall:
 - Coordinate with bailiffs or court officers to utilize the fogging equipment in the courtroom in between court sessions.

- Coordinate with bailiffs or court officers to frequently disinfect and sanitize the work space/equipment and other items used in the bailiff lobby. Court will provide hand sanitizer and other disinfecting/sanitizing materials for use in this area.
- Provide for proper spacing in transport vehicles and when requested, provide masks for inmates and detainees during transport. If necessary, coordinate with the Chief Judge for staggered arrivals and departures to court facilities or buildings to provide spacing in transportation vehicles and holding areas.
- Sanitize transport vehicles used in transporting inmates and detainees to the court facilities and buildings.
- Coordinate the sanitizing and disinfecting of holding areas, restraints, and other commonly used items when inmates or detainees are within the court facilities and buildings.
- Make hand sanitizer available to inmates and detainees while they are within the court facilities and buildings.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED these guidelines shall remain in effect until further order by this court.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 8th day of MARCH, 2022.


LAWRENCE E. BURKE, Chief Judge
Marietta Municipal Court