



United States Tax Court

Washington, DC 20217

August 23, 2022

Administrative Order No. 2022-01

Subject: Protocols for Entry into the Washington, D.C. Courthouse and In-Person Court Proceedings in Other Locations

I. Background

The Tax Court continues to closely monitor the public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court previously issued Administrative Orders 2021-02 and 2021-03 governing access to the Washington, D.C. courthouse (D.C. courthouse) and the protocols for Court personnel and contractors to enter the D.C. courthouse. In 2021, the Court issued *Court Standards and Protocols to Protect Public Health*, which is updated as circumstances require. On June 6, 2022, the D.C. courthouse re-opened to the public.

II. Repeal of Administrative Orders

Effective August 29, 2022, Administrative Orders 2021-02 and 2021-03 are repealed. Court personnel and contractors will no longer be required to show a COVID-19 vaccine attestation form, a vaccination card, or a negative COVID-19 test for entry into the Washington, D.C. courthouse.

III. Washington D.C. Courthouse

Before entering the Washington, D.C. courthouse, all entrants (i.e., trial participants, visitors, employees, and contractors), are asked to self-certify that the answer to each of the health screening questions listed below is “no.” If the answer to any of the screening questions is “yes,” the entrant should not enter the courthouse.

1. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 10 days?
2. Have you experienced any of the following symptoms within the past 10 days?
 - o The symptoms are fever (a temperature more than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit) or chills, 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 or vomiting, and diarrhea.

3. Are you isolating or quarantining because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried that you may be sick with COVID-19?
4. Are you currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test due to recent exposure or symptoms of illness?

The self-certification requirement (COVID-19 Self-Certification) will be posted at the entrance to the Washington, D.C. courthouse and outside courtrooms in other locations.

An individual who tests positive for COVID-19 within 5 days of entering the D.C. courthouse should immediately notify the Court. Court employees and contractors who work at the D.C. courthouse must follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) isolation protocols.

IV. In-Person Court Proceedings

In addition to COVID-19 Self-Certification, trial participants, witnesses, and members of the public observing proceedings must register attendance via QR Code for entry into a Tax Court in-person proceeding at any location. The QR Code will be posted outside the courtroom and the registration may be accessed via a mobile device. The questions for contact tracing are:

- Name
- Phone number with Area Code
- Email Address
- Place of Trial
- Date of Trial

Rapid testing is recommended prior to entry.

V. Guidance on Entry for D.C. Courthouse and Other Locations

All entrants should follow the current *Court Standards and Protocols to Protect Public Health* available on the Court's public website.

Kathleen Kerrigan
Chief Judge