

Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division  
Hamilton County, Ohio

2022 JUL 21 PM 5:33

HAMILTON COUNTY  
JUVENILE COURT

IN RE: Hamilton County Juvenile Court : Case#: MJ 631  
: Order Amending MJ Entries :  
587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592,  
609, 611,624, 626,627 and 629

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The Hamilton County Juvenile Court has been taking proactive steps to maintain essential functions of the Court while preventing and mitigating the risk for infection and spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease. In developing and expanding the Court's Plan for Operations throughout the pandemic and as the vaccine became widely available to the public, the Court consulted and collaborated with key stakeholders including, but not limited to: Prosecutor's Office; Public Defender's Office; Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services; ProKids; the Supreme Court of Ohio; Hamilton County Public Health; Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center [hereinafter CCHMC]; social service agencies; schools; treatment providers; and other local/state agencies. The Court continues to prioritize the safety and well-being of the families and children we serve, our workforce and the public appearing in our Court.

Due to the changing transmission and infection rates in Hamilton County and in consultation with Dr. Emmanuel Chandler and CCHMC staff, the Court is making the following modifications to its COVID-19 Operations at the Youth Center located at 2020 Auburn Avenue:

Effective July 22, 2022, the Court will use the COVID Data Tracker from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [hereinafter CDC], the CDC Guidance for Correctional and Detention Facilities, and the recommendations from Dr. Emmanuel Chandler to guide operations at the Youth Center as it relates to mask requirements and visitation. Therefore, based upon these guidelines and recommendations, the mask requirements and visitation schedule for the Youth Center are as follows:

**LOW Community Level:**

Youth Center staff and residents are not required to wear masks except in the circumstances contained within this section. The Youth Center will continue to provide masks for any residents who express a personal preference to wear a mask and any staff wishing to wear a mask are permitted to do so. Masks will continue to be required in the following areas at the Youth Center:

- Residents and Youth Center staff will continue to wear masks in the Medical Department. All CCHMC employees will continue to wear masks at all times in the Medical Department unless they are in a closed office space with no other persons present in this closed office space.
- Intake staff and youth brought to the facility for intake will wear masks during the intake process.
- Youth and court participants for in-person court hearings at the Youth Center are required to wear a mask.
- Youth who test positive for COVID-19 are required to wear a mask, unless they are alone in their room. Clean masks will be provided as needed. Staff is required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while on the medical isolation unit.
- If a youth in general population tests positive for COVID-19 they will be medically isolated in compliance with protocols defined by the CDC and the Youth Center's Medical Director. The remaining youth on the pod deemed to have been exposed to COVID-19 but show no symptoms will wear masks while not in their rooms. Movement of exposed residents will be suspended until the incubation period to test positive for COVID has expired as defined by the CDC and the Youth Center's Medical Director.
- Any volunteer, professional, parent or other visitor will be required to wear a mask when entering the facility and when working, visiting and interacting with a resident. Residents are required to wear masks during their interactions with any volunteer, professional, parent or other visitor.
- Visits will continue to be scheduled in accordance with the orders set forth in MJ Entry 629.

**MEDIUM AND HIGH COVID-19 Community Levels:**

All Juvenile Court employees, including but not limited to Youth Center staff, medical personnel, professionals, volunteers, visitors and residents will be required to wear a mask at all times when interacting with residents. During Medium COVID-19 Community Levels, visitations will continue to be scheduled in accordance with the orders set forth in MJ Entry 629. During High COVID-19 Community Levels, in-person visitations will be suspended consistent with the orders contained in MJ Entry 587; however, the Court will diligently work to provide accommodations to facilitate and maintain contact between residents, their families/custodians, their attorneys, their Guardians ad Litem, and other essential third parties.

The above modifications are intended to protect the safety and well-being of the families and children we serve, our workforce and the public appearing in our Court. These changes are also designed to mitigate the risk for infection and transmission of COVID-19 while providing flexibility to be adjusted based upon COVID-19 Community Levels. It should be noted that the orders contained herein will be subject to on-going review and assessment, and may be subject to updates and revisions. All other orders remain in full force and effect.

***IT IS SO ORDERED.***

1-21-22

Date



Melissa Powers, Administrative Judge