

BYRON WHITE U.S. COURTHOUSE  
REOPENING PROTOCOL  
Effective August 12, 2021

I. Introduction

This document is intended to provide a protocol for the cautious and prudent return of employees (including judges), the public, and in-person proceedings to the Byron White United States Courthouse. This protocol will generally comply with federal, state, and local orders. This protocol is subject to change as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health officials modify their recommendations.

This protocol was developed with the health and safety of employees, contractors, and the general public – and with the continuation of the essential work of the courts – in mind. Because not every situation can be delineated, this protocol is meant to be read and interpreted with common sense.

This protocol may be amended by general order of the Court.

II. Building Access and In-Person Filings

Members of the public, contractors, and other non-employees will be subject to ordinary security screening procedures. Counsel and parties who wish to file documents or submit paper copies in person may use the Clerk's Office drop box located just inside the front door of the Courthouse.

Regardless of vaccination status, no person may enter the building who has experienced COVID-19 symptoms until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms have improved, unless expressly authorized by a unit executive or judge. Symptoms are defined by the CDC and are available [here](#). In determining when to return to work after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, employees must consult with their unit executive or judge and follow the current CDC guidance on [What to Do if You Are Sick](#).

Individuals entering the courthouse must self-monitor for COVID-19 indicative symptoms and must stay at home if they feel ill or have a temperature of 100.4° F or greater. In the case of low leave balances, employees should work with their supervisors to determine the best course of action regarding telework and leave.

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated may not enter the building if they have been in close contact with an individual who is symptomatic or diagnosed with COVID-19 until at least 14 days after that person's last close contact with the symptomatic/diagnosed individual. [Close contact](#) is defined by the CDC as being within six feet of a person with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from two days before illness onset or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before testing. The CDC also includes in the definition of close contact: providing care at home to an individual who is sick with COVID-19, having direct physical contact with an individual who is sick with COVID-19, and sharing eating or drinking utensils with an individual who is sick with COVID-19.

Employees who have been diagnosed as probable or positive for COVID-19 must act in accordance with the Byron White U.S. Courthouse Employee Probable or Positive COVID-19 Protocol.

### III. Face Coverings and Social Distancing

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must: wear a mask while in the building (except for an employee in his or her own office or cubicle), maintain social distancing of at least six feet, and, for purposes of contact tracing, keep a record of where they go and who they encounter in the Courthouse. Individuals are considered "fully vaccinated" two weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) or two weeks after receiving a single dose vaccine (e.g., Johnson & Johnson). Proof of vaccination may be required.

If masking requirements become necessary or appropriate for everyone due to an increase in COVID-19 cases, or in response to state or local orders, those requirements will be imposed by general order.