

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
TEXARKANA DIVISION**

DIVISIONAL STANDING ORDER NO. 2021-1

In response to Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”) advisements to take precautions regarding the COVID-19 virus (coronavirus) outbreak by limiting exposure to the virus, while also being mindful that the Texarkana Division courthouse within the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Texas (“EDTX”) is a public building in which the public is welcomed, EDTX will enforce the following targeted visitor restrictions effectively immediately and through February 28, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.

The court has reviewed guidance from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO), in particular the “Updated Guidance Regarding Judiciary Response to COVID-19” (5/22/2020), the “Federal Judiciary COVID-19 Recovery Guidelines” (5/7/2020), the “COVID-19 Judiciary Recovery Planning Checklist” (5/7/2020) and AO posts such as “Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance: Jury Duty FAQs.”

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, effective immediately, that the following persons shall not enter any courtroom, court office or court facility located in the Texarkana Division courthouse:

- 1) Persons who have traveled internationally within the preceding 14 days.
- 2) Persons who reside or have had close contact with someone who has traveled internationally within the preceding 14 days.
- 3) Persons who a medical doctor, hospital or public health agency has directed to self-quarantine, during such period of self-quarantining.
- 4) Persons who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who have not obtained express medical verification as now being non-communicative/non-contagious from a medical doctor, hospital or public health agency or who have been tested and have not received a negative result.
- 5) Persons who live with and/or care for a person described in category 4 above.

- 6) Persons who present for entry to said court facility and exhibit or report currently having a fever, cough, shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, or nausea.

IT IS ORDERED that all Texarkana, Texas Court Security Officers (“CSOs”), following substantive guidance from this Order and administrative guidance from the United States Marshal for EDTX, shall deny entry to anyone attempting to enter said court facility in violation of these protocols. In the event of any uncertainty as to a person’s ability to gain entrance to the court facility hereunder, the CSOs shall immediately contact the U.S. Marshal for EDTX or his designated Deputy Marshal for a determination, which shall control.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that those persons who are not barred by one of the exclusions described above must wear an appropriate face mask or covering in all public areas of the courthouse, including but not limited to courtrooms, jury rooms, hallways, restrooms, lobbies and elevators. Persons other than jurors must supply their own face mask or covering.

If you are scheduled or required to appear in district court or magistrate court during the period of this order and you are unable to gain entry because of these targeted visitor restrictions, you should proceed as follows:

- If you are represented by an attorney, please contact your attorney.
- If you are an attorney scheduled to appear in court before a judge, please contact the respective chambers directly by telephone. Telephone contact information for the Texarkana Division is available at: <http://www.txed.uscourts.gov/>.
- If you are scheduled to meet with a probation or pretrial services officer, please contact the Probation and Pretrial Services Office directly for guidance and instructions.
- For any other District Court matters, please contact the Texarkana Deputy Clerk in Charge at (903) 794-8561 or the EDTX Clerk of Court at (903) 590-1111 in Tyler, Texas.

Upon entry into the courthouse, all persons must maintain appropriate distancing from others in the courthouse, to include sitting at the location assigned by a member of the court staff. Each person must follow instructions of the court staff and CSOs to aid in maintaining distance in the courthouse.

IT IS ORDERED that each courtroom within the courthouse has specific requirements as to spectators during a trial or hearing, and access is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

IT IS ORDERED that, unless extended by subsequent order, these restrictions shall remain in place until February 28, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., when they shall automatically expire. After

this order is signed and filed with the Standing Orders of the EDTX, the U.S. Marshal for the EDTX shall post it in a prominent location at the main entrance to the courthouse in Texarkana, Texas, so that the public may have advance notice of its requirements before it takes effect.

FOR THE COURT this 28th day of January, 2021.



Robert W. Schroeder III
United States District Judge