

**SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT  
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

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**TO:** Members of the Vermont Bar

**FROM:** Teri Corsones, Esq., State Court Administrator

**RE:** Amended Administrative Directive TC-1

**DATE:** September 27, 2022

Following the outbreak of Covid-19 and Governor Scott's declaration of a state of emergency on March 13, 2020, the Vermont Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 49 on March 16, 2020, and therein declared a judicial emergency. After 34 amendments and two and a half years' time, AO 49 is due to expire on September 30, 2022. This will mark the official end of the judicial emergency. Congratulations! The Judiciary is incredibly grateful to the members of the Vermont Bar for their patience, cooperation, and professionalism as the Judiciary responded to the pandemic in a way that strove to reasonably balance safety considerations with access-to-justice duties and constitutional responsibilities.

Given the end of the judicial emergency on September 30, safety protocols for Vermont courthouses will be modified effective October 1 per amended [Administrative Directive TC-1](#). The revised Directive supersedes prior safety protocols. Notable provisions include:

- Masks continue to be recommended but not required in courthouses while judges will continue to have the discretion to require masks and other safety protocols in their courtrooms after considering specified factors.

- Screening questions continue to be asked of courthouse visitors to reduce the risk of illness being brought into courthouses.

- Social distance protocols are no longer required, except in the few remaining Limited-Entry Courthouses awaiting completion of planned HVAC work. An updated list of Limited-Entry Courthouses is available on the Judiciary website.

<https://www.vermontjudiciary.org/limitedentrycourthouses>

- Unit Plans regarding jury draws and jury trials are no longer required except in the few remaining Limited-Entry Courthouses awaiting completion of planned HVAC work.

- CO2 monitor limits are raised to 1400PPM; alternative mitigation measures to vacating the affected room are now allowed.

As we return to pre-pandemic court operations, we welcome your input in determining the best way to proceed with in-person, remote, and hybrid proceedings so that we can utilize remote technology where appropriate to effectuate the timely administration of justice. Thank you to everyone who responded to the Bar Survey on Remote Hearings and to those serving on the Special Advisory Committee on Remote Hearings and on the Rules and the Oversight Committees as they consider modifications to remote hearings rules in light of your and other court users' experience and much-appreciated input.

We could never have accomplished what we did during the period of judicial emergency without your dedication and collaboration. We look forward to continuing to work together with you to provide equal access to justice and to preserve the rule of law in the new "post-judicial emergency" era.