

IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE OF PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ORDER NO. 2022-11

**IN THE MATTER OF PULASKI COUNTY'S
CONTINUING RESPONSE TO COVID-19
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, since March of 2020, COVID-19 has affected the way that Pulaski County Government conducts its business and delivers services to citizens.

WHEREAS, Executive Orders have been entered over the last year and a half in response to the presence of COVID in our county to set forth restrictions on entry into and remaining within county facilities. Those restrictions have been modified over time in response to the circumstances at the time and in consultation with public health officials, including but not limited to the Arkansas Department of Health.

WHEREAS, medical experts have consistently recommended that a combination of a COVID vaccine and properly wearing a mask to guard against exposure to and the significant negative health impacts of COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the pandemic novel virus COVID-19 has continued its spread across the nation, including Arkansas and Pulaski County, the Delta variant of COVID-19 remains a serious threat to public health and, the highly transmissible Omicron variant of COVID-19 threatens the continuity of the essential services of the County.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 remains a serious threat to public health, and precautions remain necessary to ensure continuity of operations of essential public services delivered by Pulaski County or in Pulaski County facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barry Hyde, as Pulaski County Judge, by the authority vested in me by the Arkansas Constitution and laws of the State of Arkansas, as chief executive of Pulaski County, promulgate the following Executive Order in continued response to the pandemic novel virus COVID-19, effective upon filing:

~~The declared state of public health emergency shall continue and is renewed and this order shall continue in effect through February 6, 2022.~~

The following restrictions are imposed as a requirement of entry into any county building:

Before entry, all persons without a Human Resources Department-issued wristband are subject to temperature checks and will be refused entry if their temperature is 100.4° F or higher. Please note the wristband program requires proof of a booster vaccination no later than Friday, January 14, 2022. Upon proof of booster vaccination, Human Resource will issue new wristbands.

All persons must wear masks at all times in county facilities, as a condition of entry. Masks may be removed once the person has reached their designated workspace, if the person is wearing the HR-issued wristband - demonstrating voluntary participation in HR's program of confirmed vaccinated status - and is at least six (6) feet from the nearest other workspace and other people.

All other persons must continue to wear a mask at all times in county facilities.

Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet is strongly encouraged for all persons in county facilities.

County employees shall notify their supervisor and/or the Pulaski County Human Resources Department of a positive test for COVID-19. Any supervisor of a County-paid employee that is notified of a positive COVID-19 test result in one of the employees they supervise shall notify HR of the same.

Employees that are participating in the voluntary wristband program may return to work in County facilities five (5) days after a positive test for COVID-19, once the person is symptom free for a period of twenty-four (24) hours. However, the person must remain masked in County facilities at all times on the sixth (6th) through tenth (10th) day following the positive test.

Employees that are not participating in the voluntary wristband program may not enter a County facility for a period of at least ten (10) days following a positive test for COVID-19, and may return after that period and a negative test for COVID-19 or the person is symptom-free for a period of three (3) days.

Each County-paid employee shall coordinate with their supervisor to determine whether the person is authorized to work remotely, or placed on leave and the nature of the leave.

County services and county-supported services remain available to the public. Pulaski County strongly encourages the public and county-paid personnel to conduct business with or between the County and Courts digitally, by phone, email, online, or video conference and to utilize the digital tools implemented in response to COVID-19 to the extent that such use expands access to county and county-supported services.

Courtrooms and associated offices are exempt from this order and instead are subject to the restrictions, if any, imposed by the Arkansas Supreme Court and/or presiding Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



**BARRY HYDE, PULASKI COUNTY
JUDGE/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**