FILED
FEB 23 2022
Clerk of the Napa Superior Court
By: Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,**
**IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF NAPA**

# GENERAL ORDER REGARDING FACE COVERINGS

This Court FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency because of COVID-19. Since March 2020, the Napa County Public Health Officer has issued a number of orders directing those in Napa County to shelter in place with exceptions that have increased and decreased depending on the need to protect the public health from COVID-19 and ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all and prioritizing those at the highest risk and vulnerability. Because Courts are a critical infrastructure sector they have been permitted to maintain continuity of operations while following other public health requirements.
2. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court has required all persons entering our Courthouses to wear face coverings in all public areas of the Court and in all shared work spaces. Until recently, the Court enforced County-recommended social distancing rules throughout the Courthouse.

3. Recently, certain face covering requirements have been lifted by Napa County and the State of California.
4. On February 24, 2022, the Center for Disease Control released updated information regarding the risk of COVID-19 for counties throughout the United States. Despite the fact that many counties have significantly reduced their COVID-19 risk, Napa County remains High Risk. Therefore, the CDC recommends that all residents of and visitors to the County (1) wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status, (2) stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations, (3) get tested if they have COVID-19 symptoms and (4) take additional precautions if they are at high-risk for serious illness. Get more information here: Prevent Getting Sick | CDC.
5. In order to eliminate any confusion regarding the Court's current COVID-19 requirements, the Court is adopting this General Order Regarding Face Coverings.
6. Consistent with current health recommendation, and in order to protect the health and safety of the public, jurors, Court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, witnesses, law enforcement personnel, and all Court users, the Court orders all persons, including Court staff and judicial officers, who enter the Courthouses to wear a face covering in all public areas of the Court and shared work spaces at all times. Any person without a face covering may be denied entry to the Courthouse or a Courtroom.
7. The Court will provide a face covering to anyone upon request.
8. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering may request an exemption from this Order. Requests of this nature will be heard by the judicial officer in the Courtroom where the person is required to be present or is requesting to be allowed to observe. The person will be directed to proceed to the Courtroom in which they have a matter, or which they are requesting to observe, and the judicial officer, in his or her discretion, will determine whether there is good cause to exempt the person from wearing a face covering or to take other action, including but not limited to ordering the person to be removed from the Courtroom and/or providing access to the Courtroom proceedings through a public access listen only line or some other form of remote proceeding as appropriate.

9. Judicial officers have discretion in their individual Courtrooms to allow persons, including themselves, to remove their face coverings for periods of time for purposes such as ensuring the court reporter and/or electronic recording device can clearly report or record the proceedings. Consistent with each judicial officer's authority to preserve and enforce order, judicial officers have discretion to require physical distancing as appropriate inside their Courtrooms.
10. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering after being directed to do so by a judicial officer or law enforcement personnel may be removed from the Courthouse for failure to comply with this Order.
11. This Order is effective February 28, 2022, and shall remain in effect pending further order of this Court.

February 28, 2022

Cynthia P. Smith
Presiding Judge