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80631

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80632-2038

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2021-01(C)

**▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲** 

Case Number: **2021 CV 01** 

Division 1

AMENDED ORDER REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS TO BE WORN IN ALL INDOOR PUBLIC SPACES OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTHOUSE AND PROBATION BUILDINGS

On July 19, 2020, I issued Administrative Order 2020-16 requiring persons entering and working in the courts and probation buildings in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to wear a facial covering through August 15, 2020. The order requiring facial coverings to be worn was extended several times through several iterations of Administrative Orders 2020-16 and 2021-01, and the requirement to wear facial coverings has remained in effect since July 19, 2020.

On May 14, 2021, Governor Polis issued Executive Order D 2021-103 easing the requirement to wear facial coverings in all but a few delineated settings. Ms. Jill Hunsaker Ryan, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, issued Second Amended Public Health Order 20-38, which also eases facial covering requirements similarly to Governor Polis' Executive Order D 2021-103. These orders went into effect on May 15, 2021 and are set to expire on June 1, 2021.

Chief Justice Brian Boatright entered Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses on May 17, 2021, requiring persons to wear facial coverings in public areas of Colorado courthouses and probation buildings. The Chief Justice's Order is

effective immediately and remains in force until June 18, 2021, unless otherwise modified, revised, or extended.

The purpose of Revised Administrative Order 2021-01(C) is to provide instruction and guidance to members of the public and those employed by and providing services to the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District courts and probation.

### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. A medical or non-medical cloth face covering must be worn at all times by 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District employees and <u>all persons</u> over the age of ten (10) who enter or move about the Public Indoor Spaces of buildings used for 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court and probation functions, except as set forth in this Administrative Order.
- 2. Administrative Order 2021-01(C) applies to the Main Courthouse, Plaza West, Centennial Center, and all three probation buildings. "Public Indoor Space" includes all courtrooms, the Court Information Center, the Clerk's Office, the Administration Office, all jury assembly and deliberation rooms, and all meeting rooms.
- 3. A "Public Indoor Space" does not extend to private offices within the courts or probation building, courtrooms, and judicial officer chambers when the person occupying a private office or courtroom is working alone in that space, or the person is working with ten or less employees and everyone in that location has been fully vaccinated; however, a facial covering must be worn when non-employees or members of the public are present in the private office, courtroom, or judicial officer's chambers.
- 4. Facial coverings are not required during meetings involving fifteen or less employees held in non-public conference rooms, offices, and the jury assembly

room, provided everyone attending the meeting has been fully vaccinated and there are no non-employees present.

- 5. The terms "facial covering" and "mask" are synonymous for purposes of this Administrative Order and defined as a medical or non-medical cloth that covers the nose and mouth area.
- 6. Persons entering or moving about Public Indoor Spaces are expected to bring their own facial coverings. The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District has supply of facial coverings to provide to members of the public who do not have a facial covering.
- 7. Persons may continue to bring gloves and a small plastic container of hand sanitizer into court and probation buildings.
- 8. Individuals who cannot medically tolerate wearing a facial covering and children ten years of age and younger are exempted from this order.
- 9. Individuals who are actively engaged in a public safety role while in the buildings, such as law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, are exempted from this order.
- 10. Individuals who are receiving a personal service and the temporary removal of the facial covering is necessary to perform the service are exempted from this order.
- 11. Individuals whose temporary removal of a facial covering is deemed necessary to perform any function or service provided by probation are exempted from this order.

- 12. Persons participating in evidence collection under the direction of law enforcement or a probation officer in court or probation buildings are permitted to temporarily remove facial coverings during the collection process.
- 13. Individuals who are hearing impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication, are exempted from this order.
- 14. Employees may temporarily remove facial coverings when it is determined that wearing a facial covering is preventing effective communication. One example is when an employee is speaking on the telephone and the person speaking with the employee is unable to clearly hear or understand what is being said because of the employee's use of a facial covering. Employees should inquire of those who the employee is communicating with whether the person is able to hear and understand the employee when the employee is wearing a facial covering.
- 15. Employees may remove facial coverings when eating or drinking, as many employees take their breaks at the office. Persons should maintain six feet or more of social distancing when sharing spaces within the building used by employees for breaks.
- 16. Individuals who are asked to temporarily remove their facial covering for purposes of identification are exempted from this order.
- 17. Individuals who are asked to temporarily remove their facial coverings, as deemed necessary by a judicial officer to protect constitutional or statutory rights, or as determined to be necessary to ensure that an accurate record of the proceedings are made, are exempted from this order.

18. A judicial officer is not required to wear a facial covering when conducting court

proceedings through remote means, such as telephone or video, when all others

participating in the proceeding are also appearing remotely and at least six feet

of social distancing can be maintained with other court employees in the

courtroom. If there are other persons appearing in the courtroom, the judicial

officer should wear a facial covering unless the judicial officer determines that it

is necessary for the judicial officer to not wear a facial covering to ensure that

an accurate record is made or to protect constitutional or statutory rights of

anyone involved in the proceeding.

19. The provisions of Administrative Order 2021-01(C) do not apply to the county

offices located within the Centennial Center, but county employees and those

conducting business at county offices in the building are required to wear facial

coverings in all public areas of the buildings used for 19th Judicial District court

and probation functions, unless an exemption exists under this Administrative

Order.

20. The provisions of this Administrative Order shall expire at midnight on June

18, 2021, unless extended or modified by this Court through separate order.

Dated: May 19, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

James F. Hartmann

Chief Judge, 19th Judicial District

# Supreme Court of Colorado

2 East 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue Denver, CO 80203 (720) 625-5410

BRIAN D. BOATRIGHT CHIEF JUSTICE

## SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO

#### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

## Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses

With the recent shift in federal and state guidance regarding mask and social distancing requirements, and given the inconsistency in local public health guidance throughout the pandemic, I am hereby entering this order to ensure safe operations in Colorado courthouses.

Safety is paramount in state court operations. Not only do our courthouses see a large volume of inperson traffic, our necessary and critical operations compel attendance from members of the public for extended periods of time. Colorado courts should continue to err on the side of safety for assembly in both public and private areas to promote public safety and public confidence in our operations.

Accordingly, I hereby order that all persons continue to wear facial coverings in all public areas of courthouses and probation offices through June 18, 2021.

Mask and social distancing requirements in non-public areas of our courthouses are to be determined by the chief judges after consultation with local health officials and in consideration of local circumstances regarding COVID risk and staffing needs.

Concerning physical distancing requirements in public areas, our chief judges have discretion, in consultation with local public health officials, to decide appropriate standards for each courthouse after consideration of local circumstances, including vaccination rates, COVID positivity rates and other metrics, and courthouse layout.

I will continue to monitor our public health situation and will amend this order as appropriate.

Done at Denver, Colorado this 17th day of May, 2021.

Brian D. Boatright

Chief Justice, Colorado Supreme Court