

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, STATE OF COLORADO LARIMER COUNTY AND JACKSON COUNTY 201 Laporte Avenue, Suite 100 Fort Collins, CO 80521 Telephone: (970) 494-3500	
<p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER REGARDING COURT OPERATIONS DURING COVID</p>	
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-2	

Except for one day during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 8th Judicial District has mandated face coverings in all court facilities. This was due to the high regard for safety the 8th Judicial District has taken along side local public health departments to maintain public safety while allowing access to justice during the pandemic.

On December 31, 2021, the undersigned adopted a facial covering mandate for all court facilities and continued the mandate indefinitely until further notice. On February 25, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued revised guidance on preventative measures, including wearing facial coverings in indoor public spaces, based on a community’s “COVID-19 Community Level.” The CDC looks at the combination of three metrics to determine the COVID-19 Community Level: (1) new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past seven days; (2) the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients and (3) the total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in the past seven days. New COVID-19 admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied represent the current potential for strain on the health system. Data on new cases acts as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health system strain in the event of a COVID-19 surge. Using this data, the COVID-19 Community Level is classified as low, medium, or high. The CDC’s guidance reflects only communities that are in the “High Community Level” should


utilize facial coverings in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status as a preventative measure.

As of February 28, 2022, the Larimer County Health Department indicates the one-week case rate sits at 119 cases per 100,000 (down 92% from the Omicron peak); the positivity rate has fallen to 4.4% (down 85% from the Omicron peak); and the hospitalizations have declined to 25 patients (down 76% from the Omicron peak). In fact, Public Health Director Tom Gonzales has indicated that we are Level Low in accordance with the new CDC guidance and preventative measures. There are no community masking mandates in either Larimer or Jackson Counties currently.

Based on the significant decrease in positivity rates, decrease in hospitalizations, updated guidance from the CDC and consultation with local public health officials, and pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 to the Chief Judge, the undersigned rescinds the mask mandate effective March 7, 2022 at 12:01am making facial coverings optional for those entering any courthouse or probation office across the 8th Judicial District. Personal preferences and individual needs will be respected, and anyone may wear a face covering to any of our court buildings.

This officially retires Administrative Order 2021-16 and Administrative Order 2021-16 (Extended). The undersigned will continue to monitor the health and safety of our operations with local public health and this Order may be revised as deemed necessary.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2022.



Susan Blanco
Chief Judge, Eighth Judicial District