

Since COVID-19 was first detected in Colorado, the undersigned has issued a number of orders regarding courthouse operations, including jury trials, designed to balance public health and safety with the commitment to protect constitutional and statutory rights and to ensure equal access to justice for those we serve. These orders have relied on existing national, state and local public health advisories and guidance, as well as orders issued by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.

On June 15, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright issued an Updated Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses, wherein the Chief Justice delegated to the Chief Judges to determine mask and social distancing requirements in courthouses and probation offices in their respective judicial districts. Chief Judges are directed to make decisions in consultation with local public health officials, when possible, and to consider local circumstances, including vaccination rates and COVID positivity rates and metrics.

As of this date, less than 60% of the population of Pueblo County is fully vaccinated. This is a rate that has been essentially static for several months. Also, as of this date, the County's positivity rate is 9%. Hospitalization rates continue to increase, resulting in local hospitals diverting patients to other locations. According to CDC guidelines Pueblo County is at a "severe" transmission rate. Pueblo County's incidence rate is continuing to increase while other counties are beginning to see a downturn in cases.

Given the current local conditions the Court is reinstating a mask mandate in the Dennis Maes Pueblo County Judicial Building.

Commencing November 1, 2021, all persons in public areas of the courthouse and probation offices must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth until further Order of this Court. In non-public areas of the courthouse and probation offices and when not facing the public for service, masks are not required when meeting with others where 3 feet of social distancing can be maintained or when alone in a workstation. An employee may decide to continue to wear a mask. All employees shall be considerate of others and amenable to requests from others to wear masks.

Exceptions from Facial Coverings Include the following:

- 1) Individuals 11 years or younger
- 2) Individuals that cannot medically tolerate a face covering
- 3) Individuals testifying as witnesses and defendants in trial who will wear a plastic face shield
- 4) Individuals who are interpreting for participants in court proceedings where the ability to see the mouth and hear the translation is essential to communication.

**Social Distancing:** The Court will maintain social distancing in court facilities and probation offices at 3 feet.

**Court Proceedings:** The method of appearances before the Court remain at the discretion of the presiding judicial officer.

The Court will continue to monitor local conditions and consult with the Pueblo County Department of Health and Environment.

Dated October 29, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah R. Eyle".

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DEBORAH EYLER, CHIEF JUDGE