

SEP 28 2020

By: A. HUSTED, Deputy

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

**IN RE: FACE-COVERING AND
SCREENING REQUIREMENTS**

**GENERAL ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING DEPARTMENT**

ORDER NO. 092820-92

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of California declared a state of emergency in this state. The President of the United States has also declared a national emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause significant health and safety concerns nationally, throughout the State of California, and in San Diego County.

In response to the pandemic, the court was closed to the public and suspended services, except for certain time-sensitive and essential functions, from March 17 to May 22, 2020. (See General Orders of the Presiding Department, Ord. Nos. 031820-34, 040320-39, and 043020-47.) The court resumed most services by May 26, 2020; however, with community spread of COVID-19 still a concern, many services were provided remotely or in the lobby area of each courthouse, and all courthouses and courtrooms remained closed to the public with limited exceptions for those seeking or participating in certain urgent emergency services.

The court plans to continue providing as many services as possible remotely, including most hearings. However, beginning September 10, 2020, the court opened public access to certain portions of its facilities with capacity limits to allow for adequate social distancing. Although

1 some personnel will remain in the lobbies, the following locations, which may be amended from
2 time to time, are accessible to persons with court business:

- 3 • Central Courthouse: 1st through 4th Floors (Business Offices) and 14th Floor (Central
4 Records)
- 5 • Hall of Justice: 1st and 2nd Floors (Business Offices)
- 6 • Kearny Mesa Traffic Court
- 7 • East County Regional Center: Ground and 1st Floors (Business Offices)
- 8 • North County Regional Center: South Building Lobby, North Building and Annex
9 (Business Offices)
- 10 • South County Regional Center: 1st through 3rd Floors (Business Offices)
- 11 • Juvenile Court: 1st and 2nd Floors (Business Offices)
- 12 • Audio/Visual Access Rooms, which enable hearing participants who do not have
13 access to a computer or smartphone to come to a courthouse and use the court's
14 equipment for their scheduled hearing

15 The court will continue to update its website (www.sdcourt.ca.gov) with information
16 regarding which in-person services and facilities are available.

17 The court plans to gradually resume in-person jury trials beginning on October 13, 2020,
18 and jurors will begin reporting on October 9, 2020.

19 For those who must enter the court's facilities, the court will comply with the guidance
20 from county, state, and federal health authorities, including, but not limited to, conducting
21 temperature and/or symptom screenings, requiring face coverings, enforcing social distancing,
22 continuing increased cleaning measures, and providing hand sanitizer kiosks.

23 For good cause and pursuant to the court's inherent supervisory and administrative
24 authority, as well as the Presiding Judge's duty to promote access to justice for all members of the
25 public, taking into account the needs of the public and court as they relate to the efficient and
26 effective management of the court (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603), and in order to protect the
27 health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, parties, attorneys, witnesses, and
28 law enforcement officers, this court **HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1 Until further notice, the court will comply with guidance from county, state, and federal
2 health authorities and impose COVID-19 preventative control measures and symptom screening,
3 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 4 1. All persons, including court staff and judicial officers, who enter the courthouse must
5 have a face covering in their possession and wear the face covering consistent with the
6 requirements of the California Department of Public Health Guidance ("CDPH
7 Guidance") for the Use of Face Coverings issued on June 18, 2020 (available at:
8 [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/C](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf)
9 [OVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Guidance-for-Face-Coverings_06-18-2020.pdf)). Specifically, face
10 coverings must be worn by all persons when they are inside of, or in line to enter, any
11 indoor public space. Additionally, court staff and judicial officers must wear face
12 coverings when engaged in work when (1) interacting in-person with any member of
13 the public; (2) working in any space visited by members of the public, regardless of
14 whether anyone from the public is present at the time; (3) working in or walking
15 through common areas, such as hallways, stairways, elevators, and parking facilities;
16 and (4) in any room or enclosed area where other people are present when unable to
17 maintain 6 feet of physical distance. Persons younger than two years old are exempt
18 from wearing a face covering. Other persons exempted by the CDPH guidance, such
19 as those with a medical or mental health condition or a developmental disability that
20 prevents wearing a face covering, will be assisted outside the courthouse or provided
21 with an alternative accommodation. Any non-exempt person without a face covering
22 may be denied entry to the courthouse or courtroom.
- 23 2. In addition to paragraph 1, all persons, including court staff and judicial officers, must
24 wear a face covering at all times in any courtroom in the Juvenile Courthouse.
- 25 3. To be permitted into the courthouse, all persons, including court staff and judicial
26 officers, must submit to temperature screening. The temperature screening is being
27 coordinated with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. Temperature screening
28 will be conducted Monday through Friday, with the hours varied depending on location.

1 No individual will be permitted to enter the courthouse with a temperature of 100
2 degrees or more.

- 3 4. No person will be permitted to enter the courthouse if that person is exhibiting COVID-
4 19 symptoms as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”)
5 (available at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)
6 [testing/symptoms.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)), which currently include, but are not limited to, fever or chills,
7 cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches,
8 headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or
9 vomiting, or diarrhea.
- 10 5. Persons who, within the fourteen days prior, have traveled from an international
11 location identified on the CDC Warning Level 2 or 3 Travel Advisory (available at:
12 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>)
13 may be subject to restrictions in accordance with current guidance from applicable
14 county, state, and federal health authorities.
- 15 6. Social distancing of at least six (6) feet shall be enforced in all courthouses, courtrooms,
16 business offices, and public areas to the extent possible.

17 Paragraph two (2) of the General Order of the Presiding Department of the San Diego
18 Superior Court, In Re: Restricted Public Access; Face-Covering and Temperature-Screening
19 Requirements; and Livestream Broadcasting, Order No. 052220-54, is rescinded as moot. All
20 remaining provisions of General Order 052220-54 shall remain in full force and effect, except
21 paragraph one (1), which was rescinded by General Order 090920-90.

22 Paragraph two (2) of the General Order of the Presiding Department of the San Diego
23 Superior Court, In Re: Extension of Criminal Trials and Modifications to Public Access Order,
24 Order No. 061220-63, is rescinded as moot. All remaining provisions of General Order 061220-
25 63 shall remain in full force and effect.


26 General Order of the Presiding Department of the San Diego Superior Court, In Re: Face-
27 Covering and Screening Requirements, Order No. 071620-75, is rescinded as moot.

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1 General Order of the Presiding Department of the San Diego Superior Court, In Re:
2 Restoration of Civil Services, Order No. 051220-51(A), is rescinded as moot.

3 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND MAY BE AMENDED AS**
4 **CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.**

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7 DATED: September 28, 2020



8 **HON. LORNA A. ALKSNE**
9 **PRESIDING JUDGE**
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