



1 and currently recommend face coverings in indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status,  
2 and still require them for individuals who are not fully vaccinated.

3 The County of San Diego has made significant progress in vaccinating individuals and  
4 reducing community transmission of COVID-19. In light of this progress, and subject to and in  
5 accordance with Cal/OSHA and CDPH guidelines, effective November 15, 2021, face coverings  
6 will be optional, but recommended, for fully vaccinated individuals and required for individuals  
7 who are not fully vaccinated in all of the court's facilities. In addition, the court will continue to  
8 follow applicable guidance from county, state, and federal public health authorities, including, but  
9 not limited to, prohibiting individuals from entering if they are subject to an isolation or quarantine  
10 order or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, continuing increased cleaning measures, and  
11 providing hand sanitizer kiosks.

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

18 — Effective November 15, 2021, at 7:00 a.m., and until further notice, the court will follow  
19 applicable guidance from county, state, and federal health authorities and impose COVID-19 risk-  
20 reduction measures as follows:

21 1. For individuals who are not court employees: Face coverings are optional, but  
22 ~~recommended, for fully vaccinated individuals, and face coverings are required for individuals who~~  
23 are not fully vaccinated. Any individual not wearing a face covering inside a court facility is self-  
24 attesting that they are fully vaccinated in compliance with the requirements of the current California  
25 Department of Public Health Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings ("CDPH Guidance").<sup>1</sup>

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28 <sup>1</sup> CDPH Guidance is available at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>.



1 Persons younger than two years old are exempt from wearing a face covering. Unvaccinated  
2 persons exempted by the CDPH Guidance, such as those with a medical condition, mental health  
3 condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, will be assisted outside the courthouse  
4 or provided with an alternative accommodation. Any unvaccinated person without a face covering  
5 may be denied entry to, or removed from, the courthouse or courtroom.

6       2. For court employees: Face coverings are optional, but recommended, for fully  
7 vaccinated individuals, and face coverings are required for individuals who are not fully vaccinated.  
8 To be considered fully vaccinated and eligible to remove their face covering in the workplace, court  
9 employees must follow the proof-of-vaccination procedures communicated by the Executive  
10 Officer, including any subsequent modifications to that procedure. All court employees will be  
11 considered not fully vaccinated and required to wear a face covering in the workplace unless and  
12 until they have successfully completed the current procedure. Court staff who are not fully  
13 vaccinated may remove their face covering when working in an office or room alone or when  
14 actively eating or drinking provided they are able to maintain six feet of social distancing from  
15 persons who are not members of the same household. Other employees exempted by applicable  
16 CDPH Guidance or Cal/OSHA regulations, such as those with a medical condition, mental health  
17 condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, may be provided with an alternative  
18 accommodation, if available. Any employee that is not fully vaccinated in accordance with this  
19 paragraph may not enter any court facility without a face covering unless they have a pre-approved  
20 alternate accommodation.

21       3. Notwithstanding the above, the court may designate certain areas within its facilities  
22 ~~where all persons, including court employees, will be required to wear face coverings, regardless of~~  
23 vaccination status. The court will post signs in these areas indicating face coverings are required,  
24 regardless of vaccination status. As of the date of this general order, such areas include Family  
25 Court Counselor Offices and Children's Waiting Rooms; however, the court may subsequently  
26 modify the areas requiring universal face coverings as determined by the Executive Officer. In such  
27 areas, persons younger than two years old are exempt from wearing a face covering, and persons  
28 exempted by the CDPH Guidance, such as those with a medical condition, mental health condition,

1 or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, will be assisted outside the applicable court area  
2 or provided with an alternative accommodation. Any non-exempt person without a face covering  
3 may be denied entry to, or removed from, such designated areas.

4 4. All persons, including court staff and judicial officers, are required to self-evaluate for  
5 symptoms and may not enter the courthouse if they are subject to an isolation or quarantine order or  
6 exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
7 ("CDC") (available at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)  
8 [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, cough,  
9 shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of  
10 taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

11 5. This order does not restrict or otherwise abrogate the express and inherent authority of  
12 the court and its judges to provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings, control in the furtherance  
13 of justice the conduct of persons connected with judicial proceedings, or to control processes and  
14 orders so as to make them conform to law and justice. Specifically, if a judicial officer determines  
15 it is necessary to the furtherance of justice to wear or remove their face covering when on the bench  
16 or to direct an individual in their courtroom to wear or remove their face covering, they may do so.

17 6. Effective November 15, 2021, at 7:00 a.m., General Order of the Presiding Department  
18 of the San Diego Superior Court, In Re: Face-Coverings, Order No. 081821-84, is rescinded as  
19 moot.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21  
22 DATED: November 12, 2021



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24 **HONORABLE LORNA A. ALKSNE**  
25 **PRESIDING JUDGE**  
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