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FILED
Clerk of the Superior Court

AUG 18 2021

By: A. Husted, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
CENTRAL DIVISION

IN RE: FACE-COVERING AND SELF-SCREENING REQUIREMENTS) **GENERAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDING DEPARTMENT**
) **ORDER NO. 081821-84**

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 health and safety concerns associated with the pandemic, along with the State of California and County of San Diego public health orders issued in response thereto, have caused substantial operational changes for the court since March 17, 2020.

On June 15, 2021, the State of California fully reopened its economy and allowed businesses and public entities, including the court, to generally return to usual operations, subject to some ongoing risk-reduction measures such as requiring face coverings for unvaccinated individuals but making them optional for fully vaccinated individuals. However, on July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), recommended that fully vaccinated individuals wear a face covering in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. The County of San Diego and State of California public health authorities subsequently adopted the CDC’s

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

3 Due to the increasing number of cases in San Diego County, for those who enter the court's
4 facilities, the court will implement appropriate risk-reduction measures, including, but not limited
5 to, requiring face coverings to be worn in indoor public settings, prohibiting individuals from
6 entering if they are subject to an isolation or quarantine order or are experiencing symptoms of
7 COVID-19, continuing increased cleaning measures, and providing hand sanitizer kiosks.

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

14 Effective immediately in the South County Regional Center, and effective August 23, 2021,
15 at 8:00 a.m. for the rest of the court's facilities, and until further notice, the court will impose the
16 following COVID-19 risk-reduction measures:

17 1. Regardless of vaccination status, all persons, including court staff and judicial officers,
18 who enter any court facility must wear a face covering. Court staff and judicial officers may
19 remove their face covering when working in an office or room alone or when actively eating or
20 drinking provided they are able to maintain six feet of social distancing from persons who are not
21 members of the same household. Persons younger than two years old are exempt from wearing a
22 face covering. Other persons exempted by applicable California Department of Public Health
23 guidance or Cal/OSHA regulations, such as those with a medical condition, mental health condition,
24 or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, will be assisted outside the courthouse or
25 provided with an alternative accommodation. Any non-exempt person without a face covering may
26 be denied entry to the courthouse or courtroom.

27 2. All persons, including court staff and judicial officers, are required to self-evaluate for
28 symptoms and may not enter the courthouse if they are subject to an isolation or quarantine order or

1 exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
2 (“CDC”) (available at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html)
3 [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,
4 shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of
5 taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

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

12 4. Effective August 23, 2021, at 8:00 a.m., General Order of the Presiding Department of
13 the San Diego Superior Court, In Re: Face-Coverings, Order No. 061421-75, is rescinded as moot.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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16 DATED: August 18, 2021



HONORABLE LORNA A. ALKSNE
PRESIDING JUDGE

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