

1 Accordingly, in all court facilities, face coverings are not required and will be optional
2 with the exception that some court employees and court users may be required to wear face
3 coverings, regardless of vaccination status, in certain situations or locations as required by
4 Cal/OSHA regulations or other situation-specific factors. In addition, the court will continue to
5 follow applicable isolation guidance from public health authorities and workplace-safety
6 regulations.

7 For good cause and pursuant to the court's inherent supervisory and administrative
8 authority, as well as the Presiding Judge's duty to promote access to justice for all members of the
9 public, taking into account the needs of the public and court as they relate to the efficient and
10 effective management of the court (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603), this court HEREBY FINDS
11 AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

12 Until further notice, the court will follow applicable guidance from public health
13 authorities and workplace-safety regulations and impose the following COVID-19 risk-reduction
14 measures:

15 1. Face coverings are generally not required and are optional for all individuals in any
16 court facility. However, court employees may be required to wear face coverings, regardless of
17 vaccination status, in certain situations or locations pursuant to Cal/OSHA regulations and the
18 court's current COVID-19 Prevention Program.

19 2. All persons, including court employees and judicial officers, are required to self-
20 evaluate for COVID-19 and may not enter the courthouse after testing positive for COVID-19
21 unless they do not have COVID-19 symptoms or until they have not had a fever for 24 hours
22 without the use of fever-reducing medications and other COVID-19 symptoms are mild or
23 improving. Individuals with court business who have tested positive for COVID-19 and do not
24 meet the requirements to enter the courthouse are asked to stay home and seek assistance online,
25 by telephone, or via mail, and such individuals seeking emergency services will be assisted
26 outside the courthouse or provided with an alternative accommodation. Court employees are
27 expected to follow the return-to-work requirements in the court's current COVID-19 Prevention
28 Program, and all other individuals are expected to follow the current CDPH isolation guidance at:

1 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-Isolation->
2 [Guidance.aspx.](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-Isolation-Guidance.aspx)

3 3. This order does not restrict or otherwise abrogate the express and inherent authority of
4 the court and its judges to provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings, control in the
5 furtherance of justice the conduct of persons connected with judicial proceedings, or to control
6 processes and orders so as to make them conform to law and justice. Specifically, if a judicial
7 officer determines it is necessary to the furtherance of justice to wear or remove their face
8 covering when on the bench or to direct an individual in their courtroom to wear or remove their
9 face covering, they may do so. However, such orders must be based on specific, articulable
10 factors that are related to the furtherance of justice in each situation, and there should be no
11 blanket, universal face-covering requirements in any courtroom or courthouse unrelated to such
12 situation-specific factors. For example, although an individual may generally choose to wear a
13 face covering in the courthouse, a judicial officer may order them to remove it while they are
14 speaking if the judicial officer determines it is necessary to the furtherance of justice. Conversely,
15 although an individual is generally not required to wear a face covering in the courthouse, a
16 judicial officer may require face coverings in the courtroom if they become aware that an
17 individual tested positive who was in their courtroom during their infectious period and the
18 furtherance of justice would be served by requiring face coverings, for example, during a multi-
19 day jury trial.

20 This order shall become effective immediately and expire on December 31, 2024, unless
21 otherwise ordered by this court. General Order No. 010124-33 is hereby rescinded.

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23
24 DATED: February 16, 2024


25 **HONORABLE MAUREEN F. HALLAHAN**
26 **PRESIDING JUDGE**
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