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Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy
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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
PRESIDING JUDGE RE MANDATORY
FACIAL COVERINGS AND SOCIAL
DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN
EFFECT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, national, state and local elected officials declared states of emergency within their respective jurisdictions. Executive orders and orders from public health authorities required individuals to remain in their homes (Safe-at-Home Orders) to slow and reduce the transmission of this novel coronavirus.

On March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) declared a local and public health emergency in response to the increased spread of the novel coronavirus across the County of Los Angeles.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency over the novel coronavirus outbreak.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom and City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti both issued, respectively, Stay at Home and Safer at Home orders.

On March 21, 2020, Public Health issued a revised Safer at Home Order for the Control of Covid-19 that prohibits all indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings and events. The order also requires businesses, except those defined as an Essential Business, to cease in-person operations and close to the public. The order requires individuals to maintain a physical separation from others of at least six (6) feet and advises persons 65 years of age and over and persons with underlying health conditions to avoid person-to-person contact.

1 On May 29, 2020, Public Health issued a revised order regarding Reopening Safer at Work
 2 and in the Community for Control of Covid-19. Among other things, it provides, “People leaving
 3 their residences must strictly comply with the Social (Physical) Distancing requirements stated in
 4 this Order and specified in guidance or protocols established by the County Department of Public
 5 Health; this includes wearing a cloth face covering whenever there is or can be contact with others
 6 who are non-household members in both public and private places, which reduces the risk of
 7 transmission to others from people who do not have symptoms. The use of face coverings is
 8 commonly referred to as “source control.”” County of Los Angeles Public Health Department Order
 9 of the Health Officer, May 29, 2020, p. 2, paragraph 3b.

10 The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it
 11 serves. In the absence of a cure, treatment, or effective vaccine for the highly contagious novel
 12 coronavirus, social distancing, face coverings and good hygiene are the only tools available to slow
 13 or prevent its spread. The Court has taken extensive measures to reduce the number of persons
 14 coming to its courthouses, including limiting the matters to be heard on any given day, spreading the
 15 scheduling of cases, directing prospective jurors to courtrooms instead of jury assembly rooms,
 16 facilitating remote telephonic/video court transactions with the virtual Clerk’s Office, online and
 17 remote Self-Help services, remote mediations, teleworking employees, encouraging counsel and
 18 litigants to appear remotely, and implementing scheduled appointments for in-person transactions at
 19 the courthouse.

20 To prevent or slow the spread of Covid-19 and to protect the health of court users, pursuant
 21 to Code Civ. Proc. § 128; Gov. Code § 68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, and the inherent
 22 powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 65 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with state and local
 23 public health guidelines, **THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS¹ AS FOLLOWS:**

- 24 1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face covering/mask over his or
 25 her nose and mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face
 26 coverings may include a mask, scarf, or any other fabric that covers both the mouth and nose.
 27 Individuals who elect to wear face shields must ensure that the shield covers both the nose and
 28

¹ This order supersedes and replaces the Court’s June 5, 2020 order on face coverings.

1 mouth. The face shield must wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below
 2 the chin with a cloth drape from the bottom of the face shield to below the neck. Children
 3 under the age of three (3) are exempt from the order.

- 4 2. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them
 5 from wearing a face covering are exempt from this order. Nevertheless, they must take
 6 whatever protective measures their condition permits, such as wearing a face shield without a
 7 drape on the bottom edge. Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this order
 8 as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Rule 1.100
 9 of the California Rules of Court, should contact the ADA liaison at the courthouse. A list of
 10 ADA liaisons is available at www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx. To reduce the risk of
 11 contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a mask may be scheduled when
 12 fewer people are present.
- 13 3. Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a mask or face covering will be denied
 14 entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- 15 4. Individuals who remove their masks or face covering after entering the courthouse or
 16 courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may
 17 have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom
 18 immediately. Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse
 19 and/or courtroom by Los Angeles Sheriff Department's personnel.
- 20 5. Maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within your
 21 household) at all times. Comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.
- 22 6. Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and
 23 cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

24 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, AND REPLACES AND**
 25 **SUPERSEDES THE JUNE 5, 2020 FACE COVERING ORDER, AND WILL REMAIN**
 26 **IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

27 Dated: July 6, 2020



28 *Kevin C. Brazile*
 KEVIN C. BRAZILE
 Presiding Judge