

**FILED**  
Superior Court of California  
County of Los Angeles

FEB 25 2021

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk

By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy  
Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE RE MANDATORY  
USE OF FACE MASKS AND SOCIAL  
DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN  
EFFECT DURING THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC

AMENDED 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 the novel coronavirus.

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

To prevent or slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of court users, pursuant to Code Civ. Proc. § 128, Gov. Code § 68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, and the inherent powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 65 Cal.4P<sup>th</sup>P 428, 522), and in compliance with federal, state

1 and local public health guidelines, **THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS<sup>1</sup> AS**  
2 **FOLLOWS:**

- 3 1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face mask over both the nose  
4 and mouth while in public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face masks with valves are  
5 not permitted. Face shields may not be worn without a face mask except as required by a  
6 physician. Children under the age of two (2) are exempt from the order.
- 7 2. Judicial officers and court employees in an enclosed space with the door closed may remove  
8 their masks while they are alone.
- 9 3. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them  
10 from wearing a face mask are exempt from wearing a face mask. Nevertheless, they must take  
11 whatever protective measures their condition permits, such as appearing remotely or wearing a  
12 face shield with a drape on the bottom edge.
- 13 4. Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from the face mask requirement as a  
14 reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Rule 1.100 of  
15 the California Rules of Court, should contact the ADA liaison at the courthouse. A list of ADA  
16 liaisons is available at [www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx](http://www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx). To reduce the risk of contagion, the  
17 matters of individuals exempted from wearing a face mask may be scheduled when fewer  
18 people are present in court.
- 19 5. Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a face mask will be denied entry to the  
20 courthouse and/or courtroom.
- 21 6. Individuals who remove their face masks after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be  
22 reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may have their legal  
23 matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.  
24 Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or  
25 courtroom by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department personnel.
- 26 7. Maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within your  
27 household) at all times. Comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.

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<sup>1</sup> This order supersedes and replaces the Court's January 27, 2021 order on face coverings.

8. Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

**THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, REPLACES AND SUPERSEDES GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 2021-GEN-009-01 DATED JANUARY 27, 2021, FACE COVERING ORDER AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

DATED: February 25, 2021



*Eric C. Taylor*  
ERIC C. TAYLOR  
Presiding Judge

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