

Media Relations publicinfo@lacourt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 24, 2022

PRESIDING JUDGE ERIC C. TAYLOR: FACE MASKS REMAIN MANDATORY IN ALL LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today reminded the public, bench officers, justice partners and employees that face masks will remain mandatory inside all LA County courthouses when a new Health Officer Order takes effect tomorrow.

"While there are hopeful signs that the winter surge has subsided with a decrease in Omicron cases, test positivity and hospitalizations, the Court will remain vigilant in providing safe access to justice in the nation's largest trial court," Presiding Judge Taylor said. "When you come to our courthouses, you must wear a face mask. However, the Court does not require the public to provide proof of vaccination or a negative test to access justice."

In accordance with <u>General Order 2021-GEN-023-00</u>, all persons – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear face masks over their nose and mouth while in a courthouse. Children under the age of two (2) are exempt. Court employees and judicial officers must wear masks inside courthouses. Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face masks compliant with the guidance are urged to seek an accommodation under <u>Rule 1.100</u> of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment. A list of ADA liaisons is available at <u>http://www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx</u>.

-MORE-

FACE MASK REMINDER 2-2-2-2

After a temporary pause in trials earlier this year, Presiding Judge Taylor announced on Feb. 9 the full resumption of Civil jury trials, and Criminal trials and preliminary hearings, effective Feb. 14.

The Court continues to encourage people seeking services from the Clerk's Office and court support services to schedule appointments. For telephone or video assistance, or to schedule an appointment, the telephone number for each courthouse is listed at the courthouse entry and posted on the Court's website, <u>www.lacourt.org</u>.

Presiding Judge Taylor also strongly encourages litigants and attorneys to appear remotely for their hearing using the Court's LACourtConnect system. To register to appear remotely, visit <u>lacourt.org/lacc/</u> to learn more and start the registration process.

For more information, follow the Court on Twitter (<u>@LASuperiorCourt</u>) and visit the Court's website (<u>LACourt.org</u>).

###