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FILED
Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

APR 01 2022

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk

By Lucide Live , Deputy

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE RE USE OF FACE MASKS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC **GENERAL ORDER**

(Effective April 4, 2022)

Throughout the pandemic, the Court has relied on public health authority guidance to determine how best to keep participants in judicial proceedings, its personnel, and the public in its courthouses safe. Consequently, as the number of Los Angeles County residents over the age of five who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 exceeds 80% and the number of COVID-19 cases decreases, the Court will continue to follow the guidance from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LA DPH) and lift its mask mandate.

However, to continue to protect the health of court users, pursuant to Cal. Const. art., VI §1, 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) 55 Cal.4th 428, 522), and in compliance with the guidance provided by local public health authorities, **THIS COURT HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS**:

- 1. <u>Face Coverings</u>: All persons entering any courthouse regardless of vaccination status are strongly urged to wear a face mask over both the nose and mouth while in public areas of the courthouse, including courtrooms.
- 2. <u>Public Access and Social Distancing</u>: The Court encourages persons seeking services from the Clerk's Office, court support services, and/or the Self-Help Centers to schedule an appointment. The telephone numbers to schedule appointments for each courthouse are listed at courthouse entrances and are posted on the Court's website, <u>www.lacourt.org</u>.

- 3. <u>Remote Appearance</u>: Counsel, litigants, and witnesses are urged to use LACourtConnect to participate in court proceedings remotely to the extent permitted by law.
- 4. Other Protective Practices: All persons are encouraged to use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good handwashing hygiene, and cover their nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, preferably with a tissue.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE APRIL 4, 2022, AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, OR UNTIL ITS PROVISIONS ARE RESCINDED, AMENDED, OR ARE SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT ORDERS. GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: April 1, 2022



ERIC C. TAYLOR Presiding Judge