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FILED

FEB 15 2022

Clerk of Superior Court of California,
County of Sonoma

By *M. Leary*
Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SONOMA

ORDER

Order of the Presiding Judge

The Sonoma County Superior Court remains committed to the health and safety of all court users. Although the State and County of Sonoma will no longer require masks in most indoor public places for vaccinated individuals effective February 16, 2022, the updated mask mandates do continue to require masks for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, on public transit, in schools, in healthcare settings, in state and local correctional facilities, in homeless shelters and in other locations in which individuals congregate in large groups. The Sonoma County Superior Court continues to be visited by members of the community who congregate together for extended periods of time in large groups within the courtrooms and during jury selection. As the rate of transmission of Covid-19 remains high in the county, the court is not lifting the mask mandate at this time. The court will continue to monitor the rate of transmission of Covid-19 within the community to make future determinations regarding the mask mandate.

This order revokes and supersedes the Order of the Presiding Judge concerning Covid-19 matters dated January 24, 2022. This order is effective February 16, 2022.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. All persons entering any Sonoma County Superior Courthouse, including a remote jury selection location, shall wear a face covering at all times compliant with all California State Health Orders and Cal/OSHA standards which must completely cover both the nose

1 and mouth. "Face covering" means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a
2 respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least
3 two layers (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source)
4 that completely covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, ear loops,
5 or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they shall have two layers of
6 fabric or be folded to make two layers. A face covering is a solid piece of material
7 without slits, visible holes, or punctures, and must fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and
8 chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face. A face covering does not include a
9 scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric. This
10 definition includes clear face coverings or cloth face coverings with a clear plastic panel
11 that, despite the non-cloth material allowing light to pass through, otherwise meet this
12 definition and which may be used to facilitate communication with people who are deaf
13 or hard-of-hearing or others who need to see a speaker's mouth or facial expressions to
14 understand speech or sign language respectively.

- 15 2. All persons, including court personnel and judicial officers, shall wear a compliant face
16 covering, as defined hereinabove, which must completely cover both the nose and mouth,
17 while in any public areas of the courthouses, including but not limited to, courtrooms,
18 public hallways, entry locations, workstations and in all clerk's offices.
- 19 3. Each judicial officer retains the discretion to order witnesses to remove masks during
20 testimony and jurors to remove masks during voir dire.
- 21 4. Court personnel, including judicial officers, may temporarily remove their masks when
22 they are alone in a room, private office or private workspace.
- 23 5. All Civil Jury trials not currently in progress shall be continued to a date after March 31,
24 2022, except cases set for jury trial with a statutory preference, or cases with a trial date
25 set within 180 days of the deadline to bring the action to trial pursuant to Code of Civil
26 Procedure §583.310. Code of Civil Procedure §599 shall apply to extend any deadlines to
27 the continued date that have not already passed as of March 19, 2020. Parties shall appear
28 at the date currently set for trial to obtain a new trial date.

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- 6. The Sonoma County Emergency Bail schedule shall remain in effect until further order of the Presiding Judge.
- 9. Any judicial officer shall have the authority to order any person removed from the courthouse for failure to follow these orders, or if the judicial officer observes COVID-19-like symptoms.
- 10. The Order of the Presiding Judge regarding Courtroom Proceedings via Zoom dated November 12, 2020, shall remain in full force and effect and shall apply to any and all remote appearances indefinitely.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 15, 2022



SHELLY J. AVERILL
PRESIDING JUDGE
SONOMA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT