

JAN 06 2022

BRENDA L. McCORMICK
Executive Officer and Clerk
By: Jean Meckauer, Deputy

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE:
MANDATORY FACE MASKS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 22.01**

The Ventura Superior Court is committed to protecting the health and safety of jurors, attorneys, staff, law enforcement, other court users, judges and the general public, while continuing to perform its constitutional and statutory duties. Beginning on March 14, 2020, the Presiding Judge issued several Emergency Orders closing the court for non-essential services to protect the health and safety of the public and court personnel. Over the past twenty-two months the court has implemented various protocols designed to protect the health and safety of all court users and personnel in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In response to the current surge in the number of Ventura County Covid cases due to the Omicron variant and to continue to protect the health and safety of court users and personnel pursuant to article VI, section 1 of the state Constitution; Code of Civil Procedure section 128; Government Code section 68070; California Rules of Court, rule 10.603; the inherent powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 55 Cal. 4th 428, 522); and federal, state and local public health guidance:

THEREFORE, THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The court herein restates the mandatory mask requirements of Administrative Order 21.16 (August 19, 2021).
2. Until further notice, all persons entering any courthouse, courtroom or other court facility – regardless of vaccination status – shall wear a mask that fits securely and snugly over his or her nose and mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom (this order is not intended to apply to the internal offices of

1 the District Attorney or Public Defender). Face masks made of cloth must not allow
2 light to pass through when held up to a light source. A face mask with a valve, neck
3 gaiter, bandanna, or handkerchief shall not be used. A face shield shall not be used
4 without a mask, unless required by a physician. Children under the age of two (2) are
5 exempt from this order.

- 6 3. Individuals with a physical or mental health impairment or disability who seek an
7 exemption from the face mask requirement must request a reasonable
8 accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act or California Rules of Court,
9 rule 1.100. Written requests can be made by use of Judicial Council form MC-410,
10 available at www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/ada.html.
- 11 4. Individuals who decline to wear a face mask without a court order exempting them
12 from the mask requirement will be denied entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- 13 5. Individuals who remove their face mask from covering their nose and mouth after
14 entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse
15 to do so, they may be denied services, may have their legal matters rescheduled,
16 and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately. Individuals
17 who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or courtroom
18 by Ventura County Sheriff's Department personnel and/or may be punished by
19 contempt.
- 20 6. While in the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and cover coughs and
21 sneezes, preferably with a tissue.
- 22 7. Court employees and bench officers may temporarily remove their masks when they
23 are alone in a room, private office or workspace. They may also temporarily remove
24 their masks when they are eating or drinking at the workplace, provided they maintain
25 six feet of social distancing or are seated in workstations that have acrylic barriers.
26 Notwithstanding paragraph 1 of this order, this paragraph is intended to supersede
27 and replace paragraph 6 of Administrative Order 21.16 (August 19, 2021).
- 28 8. This order does not restrict or otherwise abrogate the express and inherent authority

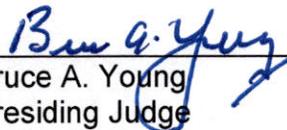
1 of the court and its judges to provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings, including
2 the decision to allow a testifying witness to remove a face mask by implementing other
3 safety measures such as acrylic barriers and/or appropriate physical distancing.

- 4 9. The provisions of Administrative Order 21.16 (August 19, 2021) concerning social
5 distancing (paragraph 7), media and public access to courtrooms (paragraph 10) and
6 livestreaming (paragraph 11) are hereby superseded and replaced by the provisions
7 of Amended Administrative Order 21.25 (January 4, 2022) addressing the same
8 topics.

9
10 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND MAY BE AMENDED OR
11 REVOKED, AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13
14 DATED: January 5 , 2022

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16 _____
17 Bruce A. Young
18 Presiding Judge