

IN THE 24<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MISSOURI  
MADISON, STE. GENEVIEVE, ST. FRANCOIS AND  
WASHINGTON COUNTIES  
STATE OF MISSOURI

Administrative Order 08-21

In Re: Court Normalization Order  
Notification to the Public-Face Coverings/Masking

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the United States has declared a specific Variant of Concern, identified as the *Delta Variant*, as a “Pandemic of the Unvaccinated;” and

WHEREAS, all COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are **effective** at preventing COVID-19, help protect people from getting sick or severely ill and might also help protect people around the vaccinated person, *See: Centers for Disease Control website, May 10, 2021*; and

WHEREAS, despite the vaccines being widely available, certain parts of the country have very low rates of vaccination in the population and as a result the immunity offered has been less effective at slowing the rate of COVID-19 infection; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control has published a guidance that reads as follows:

“To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of **substantial or high transmission.**” *See: CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, July 27, 2021*;  
and

WHEREAS, of the 114 counties and one independent city in the State of Missouri, 112 counties have been identified as areas of “substantial or high transmission;” and

WHEREAS, St. Francois, Washington, Ste. Genevieve and Madison Counties, which make up the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Missouri, have been identified as areas of “high transmission”.

**WHEREFORE**, the Presiding Judge hereby enters the following order:

1. Effective August 9, 2021 all persons admitted to the public areas of the St. Francois County Courthouse, Juvenile Facility, Drug Court Office as well as the Washington County Annex building, will be required to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth. With respect to the Courthouses in Washington (original courthouse), Ste. Genevieve and Madison Counties, as those buildings also serve as

County Government buildings, this Order applies to courtrooms, judicial offices, Circuit Clerk office, Juvenile Offices and Drug Court Offices.

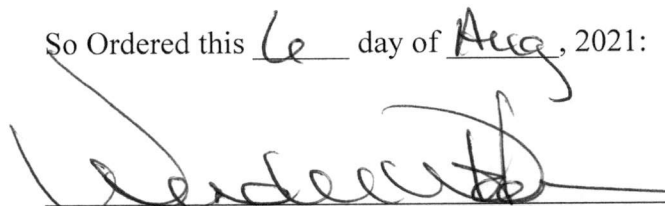
2. All persons in the private areas of any judicial facility or office within the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit or any Juvenile facility shall continue to follow the CDC recommendation of no face covering necessary for persons that have been fully vaccinated; face covering is required of all persons not vaccinated; and all persons to observe 3' spacing whenever possible. However, court employees are not required to wear face coverings in non-public work spaces.
3. In order to preserve and enhance the ability to communicate, all judges are accorded the prerogative to relieve the masking requirements for all lawyers, litigants or other persons when those persons are speaking in court.
4. Judges, court staff, attorneys and parties are still encouraged to use all available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing – whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent practical and not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.
5. The Court will continue the enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures undertaken.
6. Judicial employees will be subject to quarantine based on various circumstances. Any employee who experiences COVID symptoms, or who has had any contact with another person that is sick, or had had contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should immediately report that circumstance to their supervisor for further instructions.

**7. MUNICIPAL DIVISIONS**

The Municipal Divisions in the 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, including Fredericktown, Farmington, Bonne Terre, Desloge, Leadwood, Park Hills, Bismarck, Iron Mountain Lake and Potosi are each governed by the Order.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent order of the court. It is hoped and anticipated that both the national and community circumstances will improve. Depending on the community circumstances, and then current guidance from the CDC and the County Health Department, the Court will amend this order as appropriate.

So Ordered this 6 day of Aug, 2021:



Wendy Wexler Horn, Presiding Judge