

**FILED**

**June 25, 2021**

**Clerk of the Court**

Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara

BY  **DEPUTY**  
**David K. Walker**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING FACE COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING**

This Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency because of COVID-19. Since March 17, 2020, the Santa Clara County Public Health Officer has issued a number of orders directing those in Santa Clara County to shelter in place with exceptions that have increased and decreased depending on the need to protect the public health from COVID-19 and ensure the healthcare delivery system is capable of serving all and prioritizing those at the highest risk and vulnerability. However, Courts are a critical infrastructure sector and are permitted to maintain continuity of operations while following other public health requirements.

2. On August 28th, 2020, the State released its Blueprint for a Safer Economy (“Blueprint”), which created a tiered system of COVID-19 restrictions that all counties in California must follow. Effective June 15, 2021, the State moved Beyond the Blueprint and lifted most COVID-related restrictions statewide. The County of Santa Clara remains aligned with the State’s guidelines.

3. Despite significant progress and favorable rates of vaccination, the County and the State remain under a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Court must continue

1 to employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and  
2 recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

3 4. Consistent with current health recommendations, and in order to protect the health  
4 and safety of the public, jurors, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, witnesses, law  
5 enforcement personnel, and all court users in connection with COVID-19, the court modifies its  
6 prior General Orders as follows.

7 5. It remains an order of the court that all persons, including Court staff and judicial  
8 officers, who enter the courthouses must wear a face covering in all public areas of the court and  
9 shared work spaces. Face coverings must have at least two layers of material and must fit snugly  
10 over the nose, mouth, and chin, hooking around the ears or tied behind the head. Neck gaiters,  
11 single-layer cloth face coverings, face coverings with an exhalation valve, and face shields  
12 (without the two-layered face covering underneath) are not permitted. Any person without a face  
13 covering may be denied entry to the courthouse or a courtroom.

14 6. The court's prior orders requiring social distancing of at least six (6) feet are  
15 rescinded.

16 7. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering may request an exemption from  
17 this Order. Requests of this nature will be heard by the judicial officer in the courtroom where the  
18 person is required to be present or is requesting to be allowed to observe. The person will be  
19 directed to proceed to the courtroom in which they have a matter, or which they are requesting to  
20 observe, and the judicial officer, in his or her discretion, will determine whether there is good cause  
21 to exempt the person from wearing a face covering or to take other action, including but not limited  
22 to ordering the person to be removed from the courtroom and/or providing access to the courtroom  
23 proceedings through a public access listen only line or some other form of remote proceeding as  
24 appropriate.

25 8. Judicial officers have discretion in their individual courtrooms to allow persons,  
26 including themselves, to remove their face coverings for periods of time for purposes such as  
27 ensuring the court reporter and/or electronic recording device can clearly report or record the  
28 proceedings and any other communication that occurs in the courtroom. Consistent with each

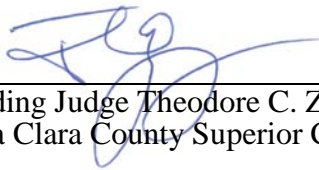
1 judicial offer's authority to preserve and enforce order, judicial officers have discretion to require  
2 physical distancing as appropriate inside their courtrooms.

3 9. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering after being directed to do so by a  
4 judicial officer may be removed from the courthouse for failure to comply with this Order.

5 10. This Order is effective June 28, 2021, and shall remain in effect pending further  
6 order of this Court.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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9 Dated: June 25, 2021

  
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Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner  
Santa Clara County Superior Court

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