

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

FILED

NOV 03 2020

Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY David K. Walker DEPUTY

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

**AMENDED GENERAL ORDER REGARDING FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN
COURTHOUSES**

This Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor and the County of Santa Clara Public Health Officer have issued several orders to help combat the spread of the virus, including orders to shelter in place, maintain social distancing, and restrict operation of essential businesses. The Court must employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. On May 12, 2020, a General Order was issued, consistent with the Order of the County Health Officer dated April 29, 2020, requiring all persons, including Court staff and judicial officers, who enter the courthouses wear a face covering in public and shared work spaces.

3. The County Health Officer has recently made recommendations regarding the types of face coverings to be worn in order to further prevent the spread of COVID-19.

4. Consistent with recommendations of the County Health Officer, and in order to protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, and

1 witnesses in connection with the COVID-19 threat, it is hereby ordered that all persons,
2 including Court staff and judicial officers, who enter the courthouses wear a face covering in
3 public and shared work spaces. The face covering must have at least two layers of material and
4 must fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin, hooking around the ears or tied behind the head.
5 Neck gaiters, single-layer cloth face coverings, face coverings with an exhalation valve, and face
6 shields (without the two-layered face covering underneath) are not permitted.

7 5. All persons entering the courthouses must continue to maintain social distancing
8 of at least six (6) feet to the greatest extent feasible, unless they have a legitimate need to be
9 closer than six (6) feet (for example, to confer with their client or co-counsel).

10 4. Any person who refuses to wear the required face covering may request an
11 exemption from this Order by filling out a Request for Accommodations form which will be
12 available at the metal detectors at the entrance to each courthouse. The judicial officer to whom
13 the individual's case is assigned or the ADA Coordinator may find good cause to grant the
14 requested accommodation and exempt such person from the requirement to wear a face covering.
15 Judicial officers may exercise discretion in their individual courtrooms to allow persons to
16 remove their face coverings for limited periods of time for the purpose of ensuring the court
17 reporter and/or electronic recording device can clearly understand the proceedings and any other
18 communication that occurs in the courtroom. A judicial officer who exercises such discretion
19 should ensure that proper social distancing can be achieved to the greatest extent possible.

20 5. Any person who refuses to wear the required face covering in compliance with
21 this Order may be ordered excluded from the courthouse for failure to comply with this Order.

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23
24 Dated: November 3, 2020



25 Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan
26 Santa Clara County Superior Court