

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-10 REGARDING FACE COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING

On May 13, 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention updated its guidance for fully vaccinated people by significantly reducing mask and social distancing recommendations. This update did not change the protective steps unvaccinated people should continue to take.

On May 14, 2021, Governor Polis amended his COVID-19 Order to allow fully vaccinated people to go without face coverings in public indoor places, subject to certain exceptions.

On May 14, 2021, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) eliminated social distancing requirements for groups of 100 or fewer in indoor settings.

On May 17, 2021, Chief Justice Brian Boatright issued his Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses, which continues to require all people in public areas of Colorado courthouse to wear face coverings through June 18, 2021. This Order leaves it to the Chief Judge of each Judicial District to consult with local public health officials to determine which social distancing requirements, if any, should be continued.

Our District includes 6 Counties, and accordingly 6 public health officials. We have consulted with each. This Order is intended to move the Seventh Judicial District closer to pre-pandemic procedures while attempting to continue to provide for the health and safety of all who enter court facilities in the Seventh Judicial District. We recognize that people appearing in our court facilities often are not there by choice but as a result of an emergency, summons, subpoena or to perform their public responsibility for jury service among other reasons.

To date, the counties in the Seventh Judicial District have seen roughly 9,000 positive COVID-19 cases and approximately 150 deaths from COVID-19. The percentage of eligible county population immunized with one or more doses of any COVID-19 vaccine varies throughout the counties in the Seventh Judicial District. As of June 11, 2021, the percentage in each county is as follows: Delta – 42.6%, Montrose – 43.7%, Hinsdale – 57.9%, Ouray – 62.3%, Gunnison – 70.6% and San Miguel – 83%.

Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01, his order of May 17, 2021 and in consideration of the prior Chief Justice's Orders Regarding COVID-19 and Operation of Colorado State Courts, it is hereby Ordered as follows:

1. Face Coverings: Administrative Order 2021-06 Re: Mask Requirements dated and effective April 5, 2021 as amended by Administrative Order 2021-09 remains in effect through June 18,


2021. After June 18, 2021, face coverings will be optional in court facilities in the Seventh Judicial District; however, CDPHE encourages people who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks in public indoor spaces to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Anyone choosing to wear a mask in a Seventh Judicial District court facility, may do so, subject to the discretion of the presiding judicial officer.

2. Social Distancing: Effective July 6, 2021, social distancing will not be required in any court facility in the Seventh Judicial District.

The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from national, state and local public health organizations, and this Order may be revised as deemed necessary.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2021.

BY THE COURT:



J. Steven Patrick
Chief Judge

XC: 7th JD Judges
7th JD Clerks of Court
7th JD Probation
7th JD Jury Commissioner
7th Judicial District, District Attorney
7th Judicial District, Office of the Public Defender