



ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

For the 5th Judicial District of Colorado

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY – EAGLE COUNTY – LAKE COUNTY – SUMMIT COUNTY

ORDER RESCINDING PRIOR CHIEF JUDGE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS REGARDING FACE COVERINGS AND RELATED COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Effective: March 7, 2022

Expiration: Indefinite

Order Number:

Since the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) was first detected in Colorado in March, 2020, the 5th Judicial District, through the Chief Judge, has issued numerous orders designed to continue providing the services expected by the public and necessary for the public. These orders have strived to balance public health and safety, the health and safety of Judicial and Probation staff and the commitment of the District to serve the needs of the citizens as well as respond to the changing circumstances related to Covid-19. These orders have been in accordance with national, state, and local public health orders and guidance, as well as orders issued by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Covid-19 data related to all four counties in the 5th Judicial District has been regularly monitored.

In relevant part, the following Administrative Orders are noted:

On June 14, 2021, an Administrative Order Regarding Court Operations was issued. This Administrative Order required face coverings in public areas of the courthouses and probation offices and required physical distancing.

On June 22, 2021, an Administrative Order Regarding Face Coverings and Distancing was issued. This Administrative Order rescinded the requirement of face coverings and physical distancing, though both were still encouraged and supported.

On August 10, 2021, an Administrative Order Regarding Face Coverings Under Covid-19 Advisory was issued. This Administrative Order required face coverings in public areas of the courthouses and probation offices.

On December 20, 2021, an Amendment to Administrative Order Requiring Face Coverings under COVID-19 Advisory was issued. This Administrative Order reimplemented the requirement for face coverings in private areas of the courthouses and probations offices.

On February 14, 2022, an Administrative Order Rescinding the December 20, 2021 Administrative Order was issued. This Administrative Order rescinded the requirement for face coverings in private areas, but continued the requirement for face coverings in public areas.

Following the detection of the highly infectious Omicron variant, each County in the District issued Public Health Orders requiring face coverings to be worn in public indoor spaces. These Public Health Orders have now been rescinded. No Covid-19 related Public Health Orders currently are issued in any County in the District

The Omicron variant proved to be highly transmissible and caused significantly high incident rates and positivity rates through the State and District. These indicators have significantly decreased. As of March 2, 2022, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website reflects the following indicator levels:

Eagle County:	One-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate of 64.70 One-Week Average Positivity Rate of 4.60% 12 days of declining or stable hospitalizations
Summit County:	One-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate of 103.20 One-Week Average Positivity Rate of 7.70% 14 days of declining or stable hospitalizations
Clear Creak County:	One-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate of 10.60 One-Week Average Positivity Rate of 3.90% No hospitalizations in past two weeks
Lake County:	One-Week Cumulative Incidence Rate of 27.00 One-Week Average Positivity Rate of 3.10% At least 102 hospitalizations in last two weeks

In view of the foregoing, and after consultation with the Court Executive, the Chief Probation Officer, and the Judges, it has been determined that it is appropriate to rescind the requirement for face coverings in the courthouses and probation offices in all four Counties of the District and rescind the other Covid related Administrative Orders related to Court operations, including, but not limited to, the June 14, 2021 AO, the June 22, 2021 AO, the August 14, 2021 AO, the December 20, 2021 AO and the February 14, 2022 AO which were referenced herein. This Order shall be effective March 7, 2022.

Upon the effective date of this Order, face coverings will be optional.¹ The requirement for physical distancing was previously rescinded. Personal preference and individual needs will be respected. Anyone may wear a face covering in the courthouses and probation offices and this personal preference will be respected. Physical distancing is still encouraged.

¹ The rescission of the face coverings requirement does not prohibit an individual probation officer from requiring that probation clients wear face coverings during in-person probation meetings.

The presiding Judge in each Division retains the authority to require face coverings and physical distancing as deemed appropriate by that Judicial Officer. Similarly, each Judicial Officer retains the authority to permit or restrict WebEx court appearances.

The rescission of existing Covid-19 related Administrative Orders notwithstanding, all persons entering the courthouses and probations offices, including employees, must continue to follow CDC guidelines regarding quarantining, isolating, and wearing of face coverings if exposed to Covid-19 or if tested positive for Covid-19.

Covid-19 remains a public health concern in our communities and will continue to be monitored, including indicator rates, national, state, and local public health orders, guidance and recommendations. Face coverings and other related Covid-19 related restrictions may be reinstated as deemed necessary to ensure public health and safety and the health and safety of Judicial and Probation staff while continuing to provide the necessary services to the public.

Effective Date. This Order shall be effective March 7, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this 3rd day of March, 2022.



Paul R. Dunkelman
Chief District Court Judge