

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON

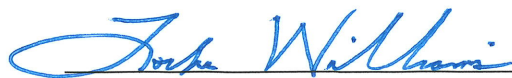
IN THE MATTER OF	)	
RESCINDING SOCIAL DISTANCING	)	
REQUIREMENT IN PUBLIC AREAS	)	ORDER 22-001
OF COURTHOUSE FACILITY	)	

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Order (hereinafter "CJO") 21-050 effective November 29, 2021 lifted the requirement for social distancing in the courtroom or any other public or nonpublic area of a court facility, but granted a Presiding Judge authority to issue a Presiding Judge Order (hereinafter "PJO") that requires social distancing in the public areas of a court facility through January 2, 2022, which authority was extended through June 30, 2022 by CJO 21-058 effective December 22, 2021; that this Court did impose such restrictions pursuant to PJO 21-009 effective December 29, 2021; that COVID 19 infection rates in Benton County have declined by over 36% during the past two weeks of January, and they continue to trend downward during the first week of February; that hospitalization rates for patients with COVID 19 are also on the decline in Benton County; and that 82% of adults in Benton County have received at least one injection of COVID 19 vaccine,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that effective February 28, 2022 and until further order, the following shall apply:

1. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 of this order, social distancing is not required in the courtroom or any other public area of the Benton County Circuit Court facility.
2. Each judge shall have discretion to impose social distancing requirements in their own courtroom.
3. The required use of protective face coverings in the court facility shall remain in effect until such time as the Chief Justice amends or vacates the statewide requirement for protective face coverings imposed under CJO 21-030 effective August 16, 2021.
4. This order supersedes PJO 21-009.

DATED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.



Locke A. Williams, Presiding Judge  
21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District