

FILED

JUN 29 2021

Verified Correct Copy of Original
Circuit Court
Multnomah County, Oregon
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of Implementing) PRESIDING JUDGE ORDER NO. 2101-00000
Chief Justice Order No. 21-025)
) ORDER RE PROTECTIVE FACE COVERINGS IN
COURT FACILITIES

On March 8, 2020, Oregon Governor Kate Brown issued Executive Order 20-03 declaring a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The state of emergency has been extended, but it is scheduled to expire on June 28, 2021. On June 25, 2021, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 21-15, which extended the state of emergency until December 31, 2021, but lifted the protective face covering requirements, social distancing and other restrictions effective June 30, 2021.

On June 1, 2020, I issued Presiding Judge Order (PJO) 2001-00000, requiring all persons entering court facilities in Multnomah County to wear protective face coverings. On October 28, 2020, Oregon Chief Justice Martha Walters issued Chief Justice Order (CJO) 20-045, requiring protective face coverings in all state court facilities.

On June 28, 2021, Chief Justice Walters issued CJO 21-025, which lifted many restrictions previously imposed on court operations following the expiration of the state of emergency. CJO 21-025 lifts the protective face coverings requirement previously imposed under CJO 20-045 and authorizes Presiding Judges in each judicial district to impose protective face covering requirements consistent with county requirements or as needed to protect public health and safety.

On June 29, 2021, Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury announced that protective face coverings would continue to be required for staff working in county facilities, and would be recommended for members of the public entering county facilities, until August 1, 2021, notwithstanding Governor Brown’s action generally lifting the protective face covering requirement statewide.

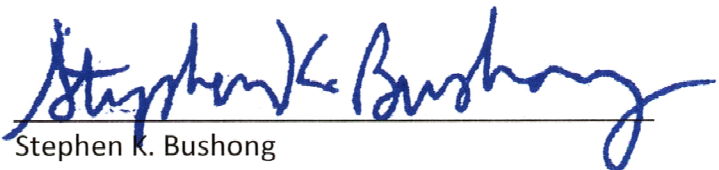
Accordingly, pursuant to the authority stated in CJO 21-025, consistent with Multnomah County policy and to protect public health and safety, I hereby ORDER as follows:

1. Definitions. “Courthouse” means the common areas open to the public—including without limitation hallways, elevators, the jury assembly room, public service counters, and other public areas, and individual courtrooms—in the Multnomah County Courthouse, the Juvenile Justice Center, the Downtown Justice Center, and the East County Courthouse. “Protective face

covering” means a covering of the nose and mouth to protect against spreading the COVID-19 virus, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

2. Except for witnesses while testifying, children under two (2) years of age, and as provided in paragraphs 3 and 4 below, all persons entering the Courthouse are required to wear a protective face covering while in the Courthouse.
3. A judge presiding over a trial or other proceeding in a courtroom may, in the judge’s sole discretion, allow any person participating in or attending the proceeding to remove the protective face covering upon showing proof that the person has been fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. A judge may also allow jurors during *voir dire* to temporarily remove their protective face covering to the extent the judge deems the removal appropriate for the jury selection process. Judges and court staff who have been fully vaccinated are not required to wear protective face coverings in the courtroom during a court proceeding.
4. Any person seeking to enter the Courthouse without using a protective face covering because of disability, respiratory or other health-related issues, or otherwise for good cause can request an exemption from the Presiding Judge. Exemption requests may be presented to the Presiding Judge at the times set for *ex parte* matters or other times as needed. Persons requesting such an exemption should contact Presiding Court before entering the Courthouse.
5. The Court will continue to provide protective face coverings and information about how to use them as needed and as available resources allow.
6. This ORDER is effective on June 30, 2021, and will remain in effect until August 1, 2021, unless extended by further order of this Court.

DATED: June 29, 2021



Stephen K. Bushong
Presiding Judge, Multnomah County Circuit Court