

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

FILED

IN RE: USE OF FACE COVERINGS )  
OR MASKS IN COURTHOUSES ) 2021-004  
DUE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) )

2021 MAY 19 P 2:29

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
N.D. OF ALABAMA

**GENERAL ORDER**

This General Order is being issued in response to the updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that vaccinated persons do not need to wear face coverings or masks (hereinafter “masks”) in certain public settings. Accordingly, and for good cause, it is

ORDERED that all fully-vaccinated persons including but not limited to:

Court employees; visitors and parties to cases; jurors; witnesses; attorneys and their support staff including United States Attorneys, members of the Federal Defender’s Organization and members of the Criminal Justice Act Panel of Attorneys; United States Probation Officers; Court Security Officers; United States Marshals; all members of law enforcement, Bankruptcy Administration personnel, General Services Administration personnel including Goodwill employees; maintenance and repair personnel and contractors, cleaning services, vendors, and mail delivery service persons

1. Are not required to wear a mask or face covering while inside any of the Courthouses of this District, unless having received specific instruction to do so by a Court official.
2. The presiding judge in any court proceeding may require the wearing of a mask during the proceeding, including but not limited to jury selection, trials, hearings, or conferences.

3. Any person who is not fully-vaccinated shall, consistent with CDC guidance, wear a mask or face covering while in public or common spaces inside the Courthouse, unless having received specific exception by a Court official, or unless being instructed to remove a mask by an Officer with the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, or Court Security.

4. The public or common areas of the Courthouse shall include the entrance areas, lobbies, balconies, public corridors, elevators, restrooms, stairwells, garages, courtrooms, and any other areas of the Courthouse where the public generally has access.

5. The presiding judge in any court proceeding may authorize the removal of a mask during the proceeding.

6. Courthouse employees, otherwise required to wear a mask, may remove their masks while alone in a private office or workspace which permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons.

7. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court. To the extent inconsistent with this Order, any order in this district is hereby **SUPERSEDED**.

DONE this the 19th day of May, 2021.



L. SCOTT COOGLER  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE