

Jul 28, 2021

SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

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2
3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
4 EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

5 In Re:

6 Court Operations Under the Exigent
7 Circumstances Created By COVID -19
8 – Courthouse Mask Protocol
9

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2021-13

10 This General Order is being issued pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071(e) and in
11 response to the evolving health crisis caused by the outbreak of the Coronavirus
12 Disease (COVID-19). This General Order will serve as an extension to the efforts
13 established in previous General Orders of this Court, intended to comport with the
14 requirements and recommendations of the Center of Disease Control (CDC) to
15 ensure the safety of the District’s litigants, counsel, Court staff, grand jurors, petit
16 jurors, witnesses, and the public. Specifically, this General Order establishes
17 compliance with the CDC guidelines and recommendations published on July 27,
18 2021, in response to the surge in COVID-19 cases involving the Delta Variant.

19 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that effective immediately:
20

- 1 1. All persons, regardless of vaccination status, seeking entry to, or occupying
2 court spaces in the United States Courthouses in Richland, Spokane and
3 Yakima, Washington must wear a mask. The mask, when worn, must
4 completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth at all times.
- 5 2. The following individuals are exempt from the requirement to wear a face
6 covering:
 - 7 a. Children younger than five years old; and
 - 8 b. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability
9 that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes, but is not limited
10 to, persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering
11 could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or
12 otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance.
- 13 3. The Clerk of Court may provide masks for visitors required to attend court
14 hearings, but all other visitors are to provide their own masks. Family
15 members and other gallery members reporting without a face covering will
16 not be permitted to enter the courthouse and will be redirected to call the
17 public telephone conference line.
- 18 4. Court employees working in a private office or workspace, which permits at
19 least six feet of physical distance from other persons, are excepted from the
20 requirement to wear a mask while in that private workspace. Masks shall be

1 worn by court employees in all general office or public areas in which
2 physical distancing is not achievable.

3 5. The United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers
4 shall wear masks when transporting inmates and attending Court
5 proceedings. In addition, inmates shall wear masks while in transport and
6 participation in Court proceedings.

7 6. The United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers
8 shall enforce this Order by denying entry to those individuals not wearing a
9 mask and removing individuals who gain entry to the courthouse then remove
10 their masks in violation of this Order.

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the District Court Executive is
12 directed to post this Order to the Court's website and to distribute a copy to each
13 attorney registered in the CM/ECF system.

14 Dated this 28th day of July, 2021.



17 *Stanley A. Bastian*

18 Stanley A. Bastian
19 United States District Judge
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