

Mar 03, 2022

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In Re:

Court Operations Under the Exigent
Circumstances Created By COVID-19
Courtroom Mask Protocol

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2022-8

This General Order is being issued pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2071(e) and in response to the evolving health crisis caused by the outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The protective measures established through this General Order align with the requirements and recommendations of the Center of Disease Control (CDC), as updated on February 25, 2022; recognize that a vast majority of the counties served within the Eastern District of Washington are now classified by the CDC as “Low” or “Medium” COVID-19 Community Levels, comport with the Governor’s lifting of the State of Washington’s mask mandate on March 12, 2022, and are intended to ensure the safety of the District’s litigants, counsel, Court staff, grand jurors, petit jurors, witnesses, and the public.

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that effective **March 12, 2022**:

- 1 1. The requirement, as established through General Order No. 2021-13 of this
2 Court, for all persons seeking entry to the United States Courthouses in
3 Richland, Spokane and Yakima, Washington, to wear a mask, is
4 **RESCINDED**, and of no further force or effect.
- 5 2. The requirement for mask use by those litigants, counsel, or members of the
6 public attending or participating in a court proceeding in one of the District’s
7 courtrooms is left to the discretion of the presiding judge in that matter.
- 8 3. The Court strongly encourages the continued use of masks for those persons
9 residing in counties identified as “High” COVID-19 Community Levels, or
10 those desiring increased protection against potential infection.

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 3rd day of March 2022



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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stanley A. Bastian".

19 Stanley A. Bastian
20 Chief United States District Judge