

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

In the matter of

GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING
APPLICABILITY OF MASK
MANDATES IN THE FEDERAL
COURTHOUSES EFFECTIVE
IMMEDIATELY

**MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL
ORDER 22-13**

This Miscellaneous General Order sets forth the Court’s guidelines for determining when masks must be worn while in the federal courthouses for the District of Alaska. The Court enters this order due to the rapidly changing COVID-19 Community Level ratings throughout the District of Alaska and in order to minimize confusion and reduce the need for multiple Miscellaneous General Orders on this topic.

The Court determines whether masking is required in federal courthouses for the District of Alaska based on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)’s COVID-19 Community Level ratings, which can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>. COVID-19 Community Level ratings are updated by the CDC each Thursday.

Where the COVID-19 Community Level is HIGH

Effective immediately, the Court requires masking in any federal courthouse located in a community where the COVID-19 Community Level is high. Unless ordered by a presiding judge in a case, masks or face coverings are required to be worn by parties to court proceedings, jurors, courthouse staff, courthouse visitors, and all other persons seeking access to the federal courthouses. If a medical condition prevents a person from wearing a face covering, they must show proof of the medical condition in the form of a physician’s order. The Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals not wearing a face covering or mask. All employees or contractors of the Court, Clerk’s Office, and U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, who work alone in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons may temporarily remove the face covering while in their designated office or workspace.

Where the COVID-19 Community Level is LOW or MEDIUM

Effective immediately, masking is not required in any federal courthouse located in a community where the COVID-19 Community Level is low or medium. People may choose to wear a mask at any time. The CDC recommends that immunocompromised persons or persons at high risk for severe illness consider taking additional precautions regardless of their COVID-19 Community Level.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still considered a national emergency pursuant to the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, et seq. The finding made by the Judicial Conference of the United States that “emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President with respect to COVID-19 will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally” remains. This Order does not affect the Court’s reauthorization of CARES Act procedures set forth in Miscellaneous General Order 22-10.

DATED this 22nd day of July, 2022.

/s/Sharon L. Gleason
Hon. Sharon L. Gleason
Chief United States District Judge

/s/Joshua M. Kindred
Hon. Joshua M. Kindred
United States District Judge

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