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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 25, 2022

PRESIDING JUDGE ERIC C. TAYLOR ANNOUNCES LONGSTANDING FACE MASK MANDATE WILL END ON APRIL 4 IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES

**Effective April 4, Face Masks Strongly Recommended Inside Courthouses in
Alignment with LA County Public Health Guidance**

Presiding Judge Eric C. Taylor today announced the Superior Court of Los Angeles County will lift its mandatory face mask order effective Monday, April 4, 2022, while strongly recommending the use of well-fitting medical masks or respirators inside all courthouses to align with the most recent Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) Health Order.

“For two years, the Court has followed the guidance and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the LADPH, while balancing public health and safe access to justice in the nation’s largest trial court,” Presiding Judge Taylor said. “Since the winter COVID-19 surge peaked in LA County in mid-January, LADPH indicates that ‘case and test positivity rates and hospitalizations have consistently declined.’ These benchmarks have guided the Court’s measured approach during the pandemic. While new case reports have declined, LADPH strongly recommends the use of well-fitting medical masks or respirators for all persons,

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FACE MASKS

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regardless of vaccination status, in indoor public settings and the Court's policy will align with this guidance effective April 4."

The Court has required face masks since it first implemented a mandatory face mask policy on June 5, 2020. In accordance with its measured approach, the Court also has delayed its face mask policy changes for at least two weeks after LA County shifts, which has served the Court well.

"I want to thank the public, jurors, court employees, judicial officers and justice partners for getting vaccinated, following public health guidance and helping the Court to prioritize safe access to justice since March 2020," Presiding Judge Taylor said. "The Court will remain in close contact with LADPH and follow the guidance of our local, state and federal public health experts as we remain vigilant in monitoring emerging virus threats."

LADPH continues to strongly recommend, when around others in public settings, wearing a mask with a good fit and filtration (medical masks or N95/KN95/KF94 respirators), especially for individuals who are at elevated risk of severe illness from a COVID-19 infection and for those who live with someone at elevated risk, such as the elderly, those with underlying comorbidities and immunocompromised individuals.

"I would like to emphasize that we continue to implore all visitors to wear masks while in our courthouses," Presiding Judge Taylor said. "We should all take the LADPH recommendations on mask-wearing seriously."

Presiding Judge Taylor strongly encourages litigants and attorneys to take advantage of the Court's remote courtroom appearance technology and service options. Call centers for Clerk's Offices, Family Law, self-help and Traffic matters, and numerous online self-service tools, have many benefits beyond convenience, including reducing childcare

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costs, gasoline consumption and pollution.

The Court's remote appearance technology, LACourtConnect, is available for appearances in Civil, Family Law, Small Claims, Probate, Unlawful Detainer and Traffic matters. To register to appear remotely, visit <https://my.lacourt.org/laccwelcome>.

Presiding Judge Taylor also announced a new General Order to extend certain Juvenile deadlines through April 22, 2022. The General Order, issued under the authority granted by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye pursuant to Government Code section 68115, is attached and outlined below:

Juvenile Dependency

- (i) The time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending Dependency proceedings must be released from custody to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **March 26, 2022**, to **April 22, 2022**, inclusive; and
- (ii) The time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending Dependency proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **March 26, 2022**, to **April 22, 2022**, inclusive.

For more information, follow the Court on Twitter ([@LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)) and visit the Court's website ([LACourt.org](https://lacourt.org)).

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Superior Court of California
County of Los Angeles

MAR 25 2022

Sherrri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk
 By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy
 Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE
 PRESIDING JUDGE RE COVID-19
 PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER

As Los Angeles County emerges from the most recent surge in COVID-19 cases and public health authorities relax mandates, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County continues to balance its obligation to maintain access to justice with its commitment to safeguard the well-being of court users during the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, the **COURT HEREBY ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Clerk's Office and Self-Help Center Appointments:

In the interest of safeguarding the well-being of court users, persons seeking services from the Clerk's Office, court support services, and/or the Self-Help Centers are encouraged to schedule appointments. For telephone or video assistance, or [to schedule an appointment](#), the telephone number for each courthouse is listed at the courthouse entry and posted on the Court's website, www.lacourt.org.

2. Face Coverings:

Until April 4, 2022, all persons – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth while in a courthouse. [General Order 2021-GEN-023-00](#). Persons whose disabilities preclude them from wearing face coverings compliant with the Guidance, are urged to seek an accommodation under [Rule 1.100](#) of the California Rules of Court in advance of their court appearance or appointment.

Thereafter, use of face coverings in courthouses is strongly encouraged.

3. Judicial Emergency Order Continuances for Juvenile Dependency

- i. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 313 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be released from custody to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **March 26, 2022, to April 22, 2022**, inclusive.
- ii. The Court extends the time periods provided in section 315 of the Welfare and Institutions Code within which a minor taken into custody pending dependency proceedings must be given a detention hearing to not more than seven (7) days, applicable only to minors for whom the statutory deadline would otherwise expire from **March 26, 2022, to April 22, 2022**, inclusive.

THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, OR UNTIL ITS PROVISIONS EXPIRE BY THEIR TERMS, ARE RESCINDED, AMENDED, OR ARE SUPERSEDED BY SUBSEQUENT ORDERS. THIS ORDER MAY BE AMENDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE. GOOD CAUSE APPEARING THEREFOR, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: March 25, 2022



Eric C. Taylor

 ERIC C. TAYLOR
 Presiding Judge