

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN RE: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
AND COVID-19 DISEASE

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ORDER VACATING
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
REGARDING THE WEARING
OF FACE MASKS AND
COURTROOM PLAN FOR
IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS

WHEREAS, on June 23, 2020 this Court entered that certain Administrative Order Regarding the Wearing of Face Masks ("Mask Order") requiring that each person seeking entry into or occupying the courtrooms of the County Court of Lancaster County wear a face covering, mask, scarf or other device which completely covered and concealed his or her nose and mouth ("mask"), and that such mask be worn continuously by each such person during the period of time that he or she was in the courtroom; and;

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2020 this Court entered that certain Courtroom Plan for In-Person Proceedings ("Courtroom Plan") setting forth certain measures to be employed to limit the transmission of COVID-19 to staff, counsel, parties and other participants in in-person proceedings; and,

WHEREAS, the Court has continuously monitored national, state and local responses to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and followed guidance provided by state and local public health agencies and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has determined that individuals who are fully vaccinated are unlikely to spread COVID-19 and are unlikely to experience severe symptoms should they contract the disease; and,

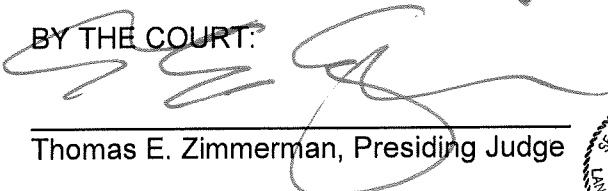
WHEREAS, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and the City of Lincoln have lowered the county's COVID-19 risk dial to the green, or low-risk, range and announced that, effective May 21, 2021, the mask mandate required by the current DHM will expire.

NOW THEREFORE, the Court finds and orders that its Mask Order dated June 23, 2020 and its Courtroom Plan dated November 12, 2020 should be vacated and discontinued contemporaneously with the expiration of the City's mask mandate. Effective May 21, 2021 at 12:01 a.m., individuals appearing in the courtrooms of this court will not be required to wear a mask or other face covering. Nothing in this Order shall authorize an individual who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for the disease to enter a courtroom. In addition, nothing contained in this Order shall curtail the Court's discretion in limiting the number of individuals in a courtroom or otherwise. Finally, nothing in this Order shall discourage the use of telephonic and videoconferencing hearing options as allowed by statute or by agreement of the parties so long as the same are conducted pursuant to court rules. Video kiosks shall continue to be provided in the public hallway for non-participants to view proceedings via Zoom and Zoom links to all courtrooms shall continue to be published for off-site viewing.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 20th day of May, 2021.

BY THE COURT:


Thomas E. Zimmerman, Presiding Judge

