

IN THE DISTRICT COURTS OF THE
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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ORDER REMOVING
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

The Judges of the District Courts of the Sixth Judicial District have continually monitored public health considerations, as these have changed on a daily basis over the course of the last fourteen months, and have attempted to adjust court operations to comply with potential courthouse closings and limitations to the number of people who were allowed to safely gather in a public place. To comply with the restrictions previously put in place, the Court provides as follows:

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Supreme Court has encouraged all Courts in the State of Nebraska to ease restrictions and attempt to return court proceedings, including jury trials, to a more regular schedule, while at the same time using the Court's discretion as it applies to ensuring public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccinations have been made available for people of all ages who may want the vaccination; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that individual counties within the Sixth Judicial District have provided for courtroom restrictions and implemented precautionary measures for their residents over the past fourteen months; and

WHEREAS, the Judges of the Sixth Judicial District previously issued restrictions regarding court proceedings on November 24, 2020, and on March 30, 2020, which have been in place since those dates, and which we now deem appropriate to amend.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Court orders the following amendment to the previous Order, as follows:

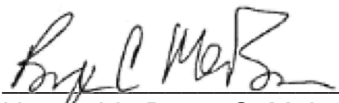
1. All court proceedings shall occur such that the safety restrictions put in place due to the COVID-19 outbreak shall no longer be required. There shall be no requirement to wear a facial mask or to socially distance during courtroom proceedings. However, face masks and hand sanitizers shall continue to be provided by the court and be made available for use by court staff and/or members of the public who may want to use these on a voluntary basis. All

plexiglass dividers which were installed as an added safety precaution in the courtroom may be removed.

2. Trials to the bench or to a jury shall occur without the need to select the jury in a larger venue outside of the courthouse. Additionally, all aspects of trials shall resume their procedural form, with no face masks or social distancing required. However, this general return to non-COVID-19 procedures shall be monitored and amended on a case-by-case basis, by the Judge presiding over the trial, in his or her discretion, after consideration of health and safety considerations of the jury members and the participants in the trial.
3. Videoconferencing shall occur on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the sitting judge upon review of any relevant factors or health and safety considerations which may be presented. Legal counsel who wish to appear by videoconference must get prior Court approval before appearing in such a manner, but, ultimately, counsel is expected to appear in person with his or her client(s).

IT IS ORDERED.

Dated this 18th Day of June, 2021



Honorable Bryan C. Meisner
Presiding District Judge-Sixth District