

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN RE: ORDER ON COURT )  
PROCEEDINGS IN RESPONSE TO )  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC )  
)

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE DOUGLAS  
COUNTY COURT EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2021**

**WHEREAS**, this Court has entered certain Administrative Orders regarding the Wearing of Face Masks that required each person seeking the entry into or occupying the Courtrooms of the Douglas County Court wear a Face Mask or Covering, scarf or other device (referred to collectively as the “Mask”) that completely covered and concealed his or her nose or and mouth and that such Mask be worn continuously by each person during the period of time he, she or they occupied the Courtroom; and

**WHEREAS**, two – (2) prior Orders have been entered since January 1, 2021 establishing a Court Plan for In-Person Proceedings setting forth certain measures to be employed to limit the transmission of COVID-19 to staff, counsel, parties and other participants involved in in-person hearings in the Douglas County Courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court has continued to monitor national, state and local responses to the COVID-19 outbreak and followed the guidance provided by federal, 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 he or she contract the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the increasing vaccination rates and success in containing the virus, this **ORDER** will lift certain restrictions currently in place in the Douglas County Courtrooms.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

That the prior **ORDERS** of this Court are hereby vacated, amended and superseded this Order.

1. Effective July 6, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. masks shall no longer be required in the courtrooms of the Douglas County Court.
2. As of July 6, 2021, masks are voluntary for individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19; however, if unvaccinated, masks and social distancing shall continue be required and they are strongly encouraged for those who are not vaccinated.
3. Masks may still be worn by counsel or any litigant and they will be provided to Court participants upon request.
4. Nothing in this ORDER shall authorize any individual who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for the disease to enter the courtroom.
5. Effective July 6, 2021, physical distancing is no longer required; however, physical distancing may be accommodated upon request for in-court proceedings, at the court’s discretion.

6. Nothing in this ORDER shall curtail an individual Judge from limiting the number of individuals in a courtroom nor shall it hamper the Judge's ability to require individuals to wear a mask.
7. All proceedings shall be conducted from counsel tables and/or from the podium and no party shall approach the bench for any reason without permission of the Court.
8. The courtrooms will be open to the public without restricting the numbers.
9. Jury selection to continue as before COVID-19.
10. WebEx and telephonic hearings will continue to be an appearance option with the approval of the assigned Judge and with proper coordination.

**DURATION OF ORDER:**

- 1) This Order shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.
- 2) This Court Order supersedes, vacates, and modifies any prior Administrative Order
- 3) The Court will monitor conditions and provide updated Orders as need.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This Order shall become effective July 6, 2021.

Dated June 30, 2021.

BY THE COURT:



HONORABLE THOMAS K. HARMON  
PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE  
DOUGLAS COUNTY COURT