

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of)
)
EXTENDING INTERIM SAFETY)
PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON)
COURT PROCEEDINGS)
_____)

Chief Judge Order No. 59-B

On June 11, 2021, Chief Judge Order (CJO) 59-A was issued to adopt certain safety protocols for in-person proceedings conducted in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

The COVID-19 public emergency remains. On December 13, 2021, the California Department of Public Health and the County of San Diego announced a new mask mandate beginning on December 15, 2021. Under this mandate, masks must be worn in all indoor public settings, irrespective of vaccine status. This mask mandate is in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, and the detection of the new Omicron variant. Therefore, this Order is being issued to amend the Court’s interim safety protocols as they relate to “Face Coverings.”

VISITOR RESTRICTIONS

The following persons will not enter any federal courthouse or probation and pretrial services office in the Southern District of California:

- Persons with a current diagnosis of COVID-19.
- Persons with apparent symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, severe cough, or shortness of breath.
- Persons who have been asked to self-quarantine by any doctor, hospital, or health agency.

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FACE COVERINGS

As of December 15, 2021, the State of California and the County of San Diego will require masks to be worn in all indoor public settings, irrespective of vaccine status. This mask mandate is scheduled to last at least through January 15, 2022. Therefore, masks must be worn inside the federal courthouses and probation and pretrial services offices. Judges will retain discretion regarding masks in their own courtrooms.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ENSURE SAFETY

Court personnel will maintain limited supplies of personal protective equipment in the courtrooms, including masks, face shields, hand sanitizers, and gloves. These items will be distributed as necessary in compliance with health and safety laws, regulations, and Court orders.

While in the courthouse, all persons will follow the social distancing requirements posted throughout the facilities. An exception applies for members of the same family who reside in the same household.

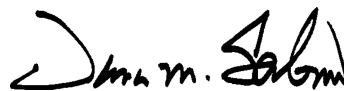
Signage will be placed in the elevator bays, limiting the number of people who may ride at the same time. Limits on elevator occupancy will be based on the respective courthouse facility. An exception applies for members of the same family who reside in the same household.

GSA will disinfect and clean all courtrooms after each day's court session. Surfaces will also be wiped down with disinfecting wipes as needed during and after separate court proceedings.

This Order will go into effect on December 15, 2021, and will remain in place until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 14, 2021



DANA M. SABRAW

Chief United States District Judge