

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

In the matter of )

**Chief Judge Order No. 59-D**

EXTENDING INTERIM SAFETY )

PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON )

COURT PROCEEDINGS )

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On February 10, 2022, Chief Judge Order (CJO) 59-C was issued to adopt certain safety protocols for in-person proceedings conducted in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.

While the COVID-19 public emergency remains, COVID-19 cases and hospitalization are declining across the state. On February 28, 2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced that there will no longer be a requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings. Beginning on March 1, 2022, CDPH moved to a strong recommendation that all persons, regardless of vaccine status, continue indoor masking. The County of San Diego follows CDPH's guidance. CDPH and the County of San Diego are also not mandating physical distancing in indoor public settings. Therefore, this Order amends the Court's interim safety protocols in CJO 59-C regarding "Face Coverings" and "General Considerations to Ensure Safety."

**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 March 1, 2022, the State of California and the County of San Diego stopped requiring persons who are not fully vaccinated to wear a mask in indoor public settings. Therefore, there is no longer a requirement to wear a mask 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.

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 March 21, 2022, and will remain in place until further order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 15, 2022



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DANA M. SABRAW

Chief United States District Judge