

**In the Thirty-Eighth Judicial Circuit of Alabama
Jackson County Circuit Court**

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER: 2021-24

PERTAINING TO APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO REDUCE THE RISK
OF COVID-19 EXPOSURE AND INFECTION

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

According to multiple published reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama has the highest rate of positivity for COVID-19 infections in the United States, and lowest rate of COVID-19 vaccination in the United States. Additionally, Jackson County continues to experience a high rate of COVID-19 infection.

Therefore, in order to protect those who appear in court, whether as jurors, witnesses, attorneys, parties, spectators, the public or otherwise, and to protect staff who work with the public daily, it is **ORDERED** that:

Effective August 2, 2021, until this order is modified or rescinded and except as may be further ordered by the court, social distancing and facial masks or other appropriate face coverings are required for all persons in the courtrooms, hallways, restrooms, witness rooms, meeting rooms, and common areas of the Second Floor of the Jackson County Courthouse. The mask or face covering shall be sufficient to cover, and shall cover, a person's nose and mouth.

Individual office holders are authorized to require the same within their own offices or spaces under their direct control.

Courtrooms shall continue to have designated seating to maintain a six (6) foot separation while persons are present in those courtrooms.

Any person who is ill or experiencing any respiratory issues or fever regardless of suspected COVID-19 or coronavirus or other infection or illness shall not attend any court hearing, trial or proceeding. Attorneys shall inquire as to their clients' and witnesses' current health, and if they are experiencing any symptoms or are currently

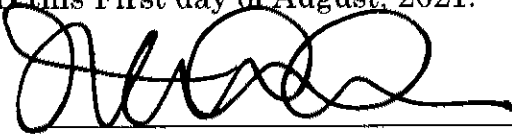
diagnosed with COVID-19, attorneys or parties or witnesses shall notify the court before the hearing.

The courts and attorneys are strongly encouraged to continue using videoconferencing through the secure AlaCourt virtual hearing Zoom application when possible and where allowed by law to avoid in-person hearings.

The Clerk shall spread this order upon the minutes of the court and provide copies of the same to the Jackson County Bench and Bar, the Administrative Director of Courts, and to the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Complaints about this order may be directed to the undersigned judge.

DONE and ORDERED this First day of August, 2021.



JOHN H. GRAHAM
PRESIDING CIRCUIT JUDGE



STATE OF ALABAMA
I CERTIFY THIS
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
2021 AUG - 2 AM 11: 04
BART BUCHANAN
CIRCUIT CLERK

~~STATE OF ALABAMA
I CERTIFY THIS
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
2021 JUL 30 AM 11: 03
BART BUCHANAN
CIRCUIT CLERK~~
CIN 8/1/21