

IN THE ALABAMA NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

This Administrative Order is being issued in response to the rise in COVID-19 infections throughout the State of Alabama. Dr. Scott Harris, State Health Officer, informed the Chief Justice of Alabama and Presiding Judges throughout the state that “all of Alabama is high risk” for COVID-19 infections because of the Delta Variant. According to Dr. Harris, the Delta Variant is much more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus.

Dr. Harris and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend masks for indoor venues. See Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People *at* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html> (updated July 27, 2021)

Based upon the advice of medical professionals and to protect the parties, witnesses, jurors, public, and employees within the judicial system, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. That all persons entering the Courthouses of this Circuit shall wear a mask while inside the common areas inside the respective Courthouses. Common areas inside the Courthouse include the entrance, lobbies, public corridors, elevators, restrooms, stairwells, courtrooms, and any other areas of the Courthouse where the public generally has access.
2. That all persons entering the Courthouses of this Circuit shall submit to a temperature check upon entering the building. The Deputies shall have the right to refuse entry to individuals that fail the temperature check.
3. That the presiding judge in any court proceeding may authorize the removal of a mask in the Courtroom as deemed necessary.

4. That Courthouse Employees who are alone in a private office or workspace may remove their masks while in their private workspaces.
5. That nobody is required to wear a mask outside of the courthouse (i.e. parking lot, steps of the courthouses, or lawn area.)
6. That the Sheriff's Deputies may deny entry to the Courthouse(s) to persons not wearing a mask. Individuals who remove their mask in violation of this Order after gaining access to the Courthouse may be required to exit the building.
7. That this Order shall be subject to revision, review, or rescission in the next thirty (30) days.
8. That the Circuit Clerks in each County shall spread this Order upon the minutes of the court, provide copies of same to the Administrative Director of Courts, and to the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Done this 3rd day of August, 2021.



PRESIDING NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JUDGE