

VIRGINIA:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF ROANOKE

**IN RE: MASK MANDATE**

In response to the surge of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus and increasing hospitalization rates in Southwest Virginia, the Oliver W. Hill Justice Center ("the Courthouse") will follow the most recent guidance from the CDC and Virginia Department of Health to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 variants and to slow the spread of the disease. Effective immediately, it is Ordered as follows:

1. **All persons** over the age of two years seeking entry into the Courthouse, **whether vaccinated or not**, including but not limited to: Court employees; visitors and parties to cases; jurors; witnesses; attorneys and their support staff; all probation personnel; all members of law enforcement; maintenance and repair personnel; and contractors, cleaning services, vendors, and mail delivery service persons are required wear a mask or face covering while in public or common spaces inside the Courthouse, unless having received specific exception by a Court official or Court Security.
2. The public or common areas of the Courthouse shall include the entrance areas, lobbies, public corridors, elevators, restrooms, stairwells, courtrooms, and any other areas of the Courthouse where the public generally has access.
3. The mask or face covering must completely cover the wearer's nose and mouth.
4. The presiding judge in any court proceeding may continue to exercise her or his discretion to authorize the removal of a mask during the proceeding and to implement social-distancing protocols as deemed appropriate for the proceeding.
5. Judges will determine the protocols regarding face masks and social distancing for her or his chambers and staff while those individuals are within chambers.
6. Court employees who have been vaccinated and who are within the secure and non-public office spaces are not required to wear a mask or face covering, but may wear a mask based on individual preference.
7. Court employees who have not been vaccinated must wear a face mask within the secure and non-public spaces unless the individual is in a private

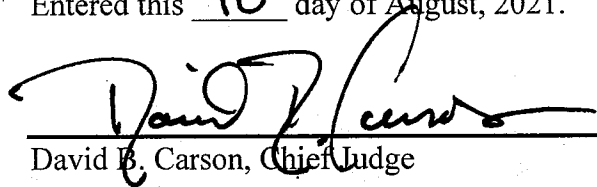
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office or workspace where the six-foot-social-distancing protocol can be maintained.

8. Court Security Officers may deny entry to the Courthouse to persons not wearing a mask. Individuals who remove their masks or face coverings in violation of this Order after gaining access to the Courthouse may be required to exit the building.
9. These restrictions will remain in place until further Order of the Court based upon emerging CDC data and guidance.
10. This Order is effective immediately.

The Clerk is ordered to send certified copies of this Order to all Circuit Court Judges, all General District Court Judges, all Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges, the Clerk of the Roanoke City General District Court, the Clerk of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and the Sheriff for Roanoke City.

Entered this 10<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

  
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David B. Carson, Chief Judge