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CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

BY

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

GENERAL ORDER -REGARDING CHANGES IN)
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS)

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER
2021-019

CR-21-999999

The Court makes the following findings:

On September 2, 2021, the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer, Julie Vaishampayan, M.D., M.P.H., issued an order, which requires that face coverings shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, over the mouth and nose, in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces, such as, but not limited to: offices, retail stores, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, conference centers, and State and local government offices serving the public. This order was effective September 4, 2021.

1 Dr. Vaishampayan cites the surge of COVID-19 cases in Stanislaus County and its
2 impact on the community and local health care system, as the basis of her order. The order also
3 provides that persons should follow the Center for Disease Control guidance for unvaccinated
4 and vaccinated people.
5

6 The recent surge in of COVID-19 cases adversely impacts the ability of the Court to
7 provide services to the public, as approximately 10% of its employees either recently tested
8 positive for COVID-19, or are required to quarantine because a member of their household tested
9 positive, or are required to stay at home with a child who cannot attend school or childcare due
10 to a quarantine order. In addition, several housing units at the Stanislaus County Public Safety
11 Center have been quarantined due to positive COVID-19 cases within the inmate population.
12 Within the last week, a felony jury trial and a preliminary hearing in a murder case were
13 continued, because the defendants in those cases were housed in a quarantined unit.
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15 The recent surge of COVID-19 cases requires the Court to implement further mitigation
16 measures to limit the spread of the virus and to protect the safety of the public, attorneys, justice
17 partners, law enforcement personnel, parties, and the public.
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20 Based on these findings, the Court orders:
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- 22 1. General Order 2021-011, is revoked;
- 23 2. Any person who enters a Stanislaus County Superior Court facility must wear a mask,
24 regardless of vaccination status. This order applies to **all** persons, including court
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1 employees, attorneys, parties, witnesses, jurors, law enforcement personnel, and
2 members of the public

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5 3. Public access to the Modesto Main Courthouse and Civil Towers (Fourth and Sixth
6 floors only) shall be limited to the following:

- 7 a. Attorneys, parties, and witnesses scheduled to appear in court;
8 b. Jurors;
9 c. Designated support persons under Family Code section 6303;
10 d. Persons conducting business in the Clerk's Office;
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13 4. With the permission of the judge presiding over any given matter, individuals not
14 listed above may be allowed access to court proceedings. A fillable form, *Request to*
15 *Attend Court Hearing*, is available on the Court's website <https://www.stanct.org/>
16 Requests can be emailed to public.access@stanct.org
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19 5. To ensure members of the public may still observe proceedings, all non-confidential,
20 Criminal proceedings will be livestreamed to the Court's YouTube channel. The
21 livestream can be accessed at <https://www.stanct.org/node/4199553>.
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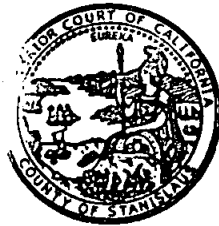
23
24 6. Seating in courtrooms and the jury assembly room shall be configured to maintain
25 social distancing of approximately six (6) feet;
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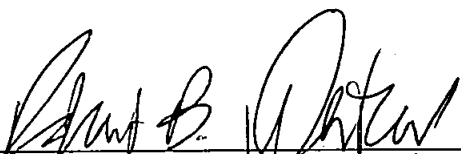
1 7. To the extent permitted by law and authorized by the judicial officer presiding over
2 the matter, court hearings should be conducted using remote technology, e.g., ZOOM
3 video/teleconferencing, VCourt, etc.
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6 This order is effective immediately, and shall remain in effect until amended or revoked by
7 further order of the court.
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10 IT IS SO ORDERED.
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12 DATED: December 22, 2021
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ROBERT B. WESTBROOK,
PRESIDING JUDGE