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CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

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

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

GENERAL ORDER  
2022-007

*CR-22-999999*

The Court makes the following findings:

On September 8, 2021, the Court issued General Order 2021-017. The order established revised COVID-19 protocols to protect public health and safety, while continuing to provide public access to the Court. The Court based its order on orders and guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and expressly relied on an order from the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer, dated September 2, 2021. Among other things, the Court's order required all persons entering a court facility in Stanislaus County to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

1 On January 5, 2022 the CDPH extended the requirement for universal masking indoors  
2 statewide, regardless of vaccination status, due to the emergence of the more contagious  
3 Omicron variant. On January 18, 2022, the 7-day positivity rate in Stanislaus County was  
4 31.7%. <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/#location-stanislaus>  
5

6 Effective February 16, 2022, CDPH's statewide indoor masking mandate  
7 expired and reverted to its previous masking guidance, which requires only unvaccinated  
8 individuals to mask in indoor public settings. However, workplaces are still required to follow  
9 the COVID-19 prevention standards set by Cal/OSHA and set forth in its Emergency Temporary  
10 Standards, which require employees to wear facial coverings in certain situations or locations.  
11

12 On February 25, 2022, the CDC published recommendations regarding the Use and Care  
13 of Masks [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html)  
14 [coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html). The CDC developed a risk assessment tool based on local conditions and other  
15 factors. Mask recommendations are based on Community Levels – High, Medium, and Low.  
16

17 On February 28, 2022, CDPH revised its Guidance for Use of Face Masks, effective  
18 March 1, 2022, and the requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings  
19 changed to a strong recommendation that all persons, regardless of vaccine status, continue  
20 indoor masking.  
21

22 As of March 14, 2022, the 7-day positivity rate in Stanislaus County is 3.1%.  
23 <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/#location-stanislaus>. Using the CDC criteria, Stanislaus  
24 County's community level is "Low". At this community level, CDC recommends people wear a  
25 mask based on personal preference.  
26

27 Based on the revised orders and guidance from federal, state and local public health  
28 officials, the COVID-19 protocols set for the in General Order 2021-017 are no longer required

1 to protect the safety of the public, attorneys, justice partners, law enforcement personnel, parties,  
2 and Court personnel.

3 Based on these findings, the Court orders:

- 4 1. General Order 2021-017, is revoked;
- 5 2. To the extent permitted by law and authorized by the judicial officer presiding over  
6 the matter, court hearings may be conducted using remote technology, e.g., ZOOM  
7 video/teleconferencing, VCourt, etc.
- 8 3. Judicial officers may allow non-confidential, Criminal proceedings to be livestreamed  
9 to the Court's YouTube channel. The livestream can be accessed at  
10 <https://www.stanct.org/node/4199553>.
- 11 4. To protect public health and safety, the Court reserves the right to reinstate any  
12 previously established COVID-19 protocols; or adopt new ones;

13 This order is effective immediately, and shall remain in effect until amended or revoked by  
14 further order of the court.

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 DATED: 3/16/22



17 

18 ROBERT B. WESTBROOK,  
19 PRESIDING JUDGE