

SEP 12 2022

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

BRENDA L. McCORMICK
Executive Officer and Clerk
By:  Deputy

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: LIFTING OF
MASK REQUIREMENT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 22.18**

The Ventura Superior Court is committed to protecting the health and safety of jurors, attorneys, staff, judicial officers, law enforcement, other court users, and the general public, while continuing to perform its constitutional and statutory duties. Beginning on July 18, 2022, and in response to Ventura County's designation in the highest risk tier for COVID-19 and the increase in positive COVID-19 cases among court personnel and courthouse visitors (i.e., jurors, parties, attorneys), the court reinstated mandatory masks for all persons entering the courthouse and reinstated physical distancing requirements in the jury assembly room and in courtrooms. (Administrative Order 22.15, July 14, 2022).

Consistent with Ventura County's recent re-designation in the lowest risk tier for COVID-19, the decrease in positive COVID-19 cases in the County, and to continue to protect the health of court users and personnel, pursuant to article VI, section 1 of the state Constitution; Code of Civil Procedure section 128; Government Code section 68070; California Rules of Court, rule 10.603; the inherent powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 55 Cal. App. 4th 428, 522), and federal state, and local public health guidance,

THEREFORE, THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Beginning September 13, 2022, the court no longer requires that individuals (including court personnel) wear masks in the courthouses, courtrooms or court facilities. This provision is intended to supersede and replace the mandatory mask requirements stated in Administrative Order 22.15 (July 14, 2022).

1 Notwithstanding the above, the court strongly encourages all court users to
2 continue to wear masks within the courthouses, courtrooms, and court facilities
3 because masks remain “a critical component” of the State’s “multi-layered
4 approach for protection against COVID-19 infection”. (State of California – Health
5 and Human Services Agency, California Department of Public Health, “Guidance
6 for Use of Face Masks” (April 20, 2022) available at cdph.ca.gov.) Additionally,
7 employees working in any court department or courtroom that goes into ‘outbreak’
8 status under Cal/OSHA standards will be required to wear masks (and to test)
9 pursuant to those standards.

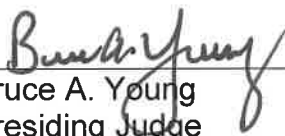
10 2. In the jury assembly room, individuals shall be seated in every other seat only or
11 as designated by the Jury Services Manager. This provision is intended to revise
12 and replace similar language contained in paragraph 8 of Administrative Order
13 22.15 (July 14, 2022).

14 3. The court restates that in the courtrooms, individuals shall be seated in every other
15 seat only or as designated by that courtroom’s judicial officer in each individual
16 courtroom. This includes audience seating and seating in the jury box but does not
17 apply to seating for counsel and parties at counsel tables. (Administrative Order
18 22.15 (July 14, 2022)).

19 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 13, 2022, WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT
20 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE AND MAY BE AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED AS
21 CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE.

22 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

23
24 DATED: September 12, 2022

25 
26 Bruce A. Young
27 Presiding Judge
28 Superior Court of California,
County of Ventura