

This Order supersedes and replaces Administrative Orders 20-02 and 20-11 and any subsequent amendments to those Orders.

In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court entered orders limiting court operations in efforts to maintain public health. Given the current state of the ongoing public health crisis, it is now appropriate for the Court to reassess the measures previously taken that restricted court processes. The Court will continue to take active measures to prevent the spread of disease and to reduce exposure while providing an opportunity for access to the justice system. As conditions have changed additional state orders have been issued, as outlined below, that give further guidance to the Court moving forward.

On May 6, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright issued “Updated Order Regarding COVID 19 and operation of Colorado State Courts” directing Chief Judges to determine how and when to expand in-person services in consultation with local public health officials and stakeholders and to continue to prioritize essential functions.

On May 17, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright issued “Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses requiring the continued wearing of facial coverings in all public areas of courthouses and probation offices until June 18, 2021. Further, the order delegates authority to Chief Judges to further implement mask and social distancing requirements in consultation with local public health officials and considering local conditions.

On May 31, 2021, the Colorado Department of Health issued its Third Amended Public Health Order 20-38 providing amendments to the statewide face coverings order and removing most restrictions regarding indoor gatherings.

On July 8, 2021, Governor Polis declared an end to Colorado’s COVID 19 health emergency and ended the remaining health emergency executive orders that he had previously issued.

On July 5, 2021, the positivity rate for Pueblo County as displayed on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s website was 1%.

In consideration of these orders and in consultation with local public health officials, the Court will continue its phased reductions in safety orders. The Court will continue to monitor local circumstances and make such orders as promote public safety while continuing to perform its statutory and constitutional functions.

**Facial Coverings:** Masks are no longer required in the Dennis Maes Pueblo County Judicial Building. Individuals who are not vaccinated are encouraged to continue to wear a mask. Employees and

members of the public may decide to continue to wear a mask. All employees shall be considerate of others and amenable to requests from others to wear masks.

**Social Distancing:** The Court will continue to require 3-foot social distancing in all areas of the judicial building.

**Court Proceedings:** The method of appearances before the Court are at the discretion of the presiding judicial officer.

**Public Entry:** Health screenings of public entering the building will be discontinued. No one should enter the building who meets any of the criteria below:

- 1) Anyone who has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher;
- 2) Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and who has not received a subsequent test confirming that the person is currently virus-free unless the individual has quarantined for ten days and is no longer exhibiting symptoms;
- 3) Anyone who is not fully vaccinated and has been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days;
- 4) Anyone who is fully vaccinated and has been in direct contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days and is exhibiting symptoms.
- 5) Anyone experiencing fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell or any other respiratory illness symptom.

**Jury trials:** The District commenced holding jury trials on January 12, 2021. Judges will work to determine the priority of trials taking into consideration the following factors: speedy trial issues; the age of the case; the in-custody status of a defendant; the severity of the charges; witness or victim concerns; and trial duration. The final determination of priority will be made by the Chief Judge.

The Court will continue to monitor local conditions and consult with the Pueblo County Department of Health and Environment.

Amended July 12, 2021

BY THE COURT:



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DEBORAH EYLER, CHIEF JUDGE