

Since COVID-19 was first detected in Colorado, the undersigned has issued several orders regarding courthouse operations designed to balance public health and safety with the commitment to protect constitutional and statutory rights and to ensure equal access to justice for those we serve. These orders have relied on existing national, state and local public health advisories and guidance, as well as orders issued by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.

On June 15, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright issued an Updated Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses, wherein the Chief Justice delegated to the Chief Judges to determine mask and social distancing requirements in courthouses and probation offices in their respective judicial districts. Chief Judges are directed to make decisions in consultation with local public health officials, when possible, and to consider local circumstances, including vaccination rates and COVID positivity rates and metrics.

The undersigned has monitored COVID-19 data on a weekly basis. Starting at the end of January positivity rates in Pueblo County began to decrease from a high of approximately 29% to the current level of 3.4%. The one-week cumulative incidence rate is 97.4 per 100,000. Hospitalization rates have also stabilized allowing for increased hospital bed capacity.

Based on the significant decrease in positivity, cumulative incidence rate and stable hospitalization rate, the Court now finds that it is no longer necessary to mandate facial coverings be worn in the courthouse. Personal preference and individual need will be respected and anyone may still wear a face covering.

The Court will maintain social distancing in court facilities and probation offices at 3 feet.

The method of appearances before the Court remain at the discretion of the presiding judicial officer.

The Court will continue to monitor local conditions and review available information and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Pueblo County Department of Health and Environment. The facial covering requirement may be reinstated at any time as deemed necessary to ensure public health and safety.

Dated February 28, 2022, n.p.t. February 22, 2022.

BY THE COURT:



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DEBORAH EYLER, CHIEF JUDGE