

**STATE OF COLORADO  
7<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DELTA, GUNNISON, HINSDALE, MONTROSE, OURAY & SAN MIGUEL COUNTIES**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-13 RE: MASK REQUIREMENTS**

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On June 15, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright issued an Updated Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouse, "authorizing the chief judge of each judicial district to determine facial covering and physical distancing requirements in courthouses and probation offices in the judicial district."

The public health crisis of COVID-19 continues to exist. On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new guidance for mask use indoors considering new findings surrounding the highly transmissible COVID-19 B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant. The CDC recommends, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent spreading it to others, that vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear a mask indoors in public when in an area of "substantial" or "high" transmission. Substantial transmission is 50 to 100 cases per 100,000 or a positivity rate between 8% and 10%, and high transmission is 100 or more cases per 100,00 people or a positivity rate of 10% or higher.

For the period from July 25, 2012 through July 31, 2021, in the 7th Judicial District, Montrose, Gunnison, Hinsdale counties have a high rate of transmission. Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel counties have substantial rates of transmission.

To protect prospective jurors, parties, counsel, public, staff and judges, the 7th Judicial District reinstates the following requirements regarding masks effective August 3, 2021:

1. Masks shall be required in all court locations in public areas.
2. For those under 11 years of age, or those with underlying medical conditions an exception is made.
3. Further, in the discretion of the presiding judge or judicial officer, a witness while testifying may remove their mask in order to be heard.
4. Further, exceptions will apply, again in the discretion of the presiding judicial officer, where there is a need to see facial expressions to assist understanding what is said, as well as for other matters such as identification of a party or witness and other specific circumstances where mask wearing would interfere with the integrity of the proceeding.

5. This shall apply inside court facilities, offices, lobbies and elevators, hallways, courtrooms, employee common areas, and other public areas. For employees in private offices or individual work stations masks are not required unless staff are within six feet of others.

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Dated this 2nd day of August 2021.

BY THE COURT:

  
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d. Steven Patrick  
Chief Judge

XC: 7<sup>th</sup> JD Judges  
7<sup>th</sup> JD Clerks of Court  
7<sup>th</sup> JD Probation