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FILED
SEP 08 2021
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
[Signature]
DEPUTY

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

GENERAL ORDER - REGARDING CHANGES IN)
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

GENERAL ORDER
2021-017

CR-21-999999

The Court makes the following findings:

On September 2, 2021, the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer, Julie Vaishampayan, M.D., M.P.H., issued an order, which requires that face coverings shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, over the mouth and nose, in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces, such as, but not limited to: offices, retail stores, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, conference centers, and State and local government offices serving the public. The effective date of the order is September 4, 2021.

1 Dr. Vaishampayan cites the surge of COVID-19 cases in Stanislaus County and its
2 impact on the community and local health care system, as the basis of her order. The order also
3 provides that persons should follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for
4 unvaccinated and vaccinated people.
5

6 The recent surge of COVID-19 cases adversely impacts the ability of the Court to provide
7 services to the public, as almost 10% of its employees either recently tested positive for COVID-
8 19, or are required to quarantine because a member of their household tested positive, or are
9 required to stay at home with a child who cannot attend school or childcare due to a quarantine
10 order. In addition, several housing units at the Stanislaus County Public Safety Center have been
11 quarantined due to positive COVID-19 cases within the inmate population. Within the last week,
12 a felony jury trial and a preliminary hearing in a murder case were continued, because the
13 defendants in those cases were housed in a quarantined unit.
14

15 The recent surge of COVID-19 cases requires the Court to implement further mitigation
16 measures to limit the spread of the virus and to protect the safety of the public, attorneys, justice
17 partners, law enforcement personnel, parties, and the public.
18

19
20 Accordingly, the Court orders:
21

- 22 1. General Order 2021-011 is revoked.
- 23 2. Any person who enters a Stanislaus County Superior Court facility must wear a mask,
24 regardless of vaccination status. This order applies to all persons, including court
25 employees, attorneys, parties, witnesses, jurors, law enforcement personnel, and
26 members of the public.
27
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- 1 3. Public access to the Modesto Main Courthouse and Civil Towers (Fourth and Sixth-
2 floors only) shall be limited to the following:
3
4 a. Attorneys, parties, and witnesses who have been subpoenaed to appear in court;
5
6 b. Jurors;
7
8 c. Designated support persons under Family Code section 6303;
9
10 d. Persons conducting business in the Clerk's Offices.
11
12 4. With the permission of the judge presiding over any given matter, individuals not
13 listed above may be allowed access to court proceedings. A fillable form, *Request to*
14 *Attend Court Hearing*, is available on the Court's website <https://www.stanct.org/>.
15 Completed request forms should be emailed to public.access@stanct.org.
16
17 5. To ensure members of the public may still observe proceedings, all non-confidential,
18 Criminal proceedings will be livestreamed to the Court's YouTube channel. The
19 livestream can be accessed at <https://www.stanct.org/node/4199553>.
20
21 6. Seating in courtrooms and the jury assembly room shall be configured to maintain
22 social distancing of approximately six (6) feet.
23
24 7. Subject to the exceptions below (7.a.- 7.c.), all parties and counsel are required to
25 appear remotely for case management conferences, law and motion hearings, and ex
26 parte hearings in Civil cases, unless, prior to the hearing, the Court grants a request to
27 appear in-person.
28
29 a. This order does not apply to self-represented parties appearing at hearings in
30 Probate (Conservatorships, Decedent's Estates, or Trusts) cases. However, self-
31 represented parties are encouraged to appear remotely in these cases.
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33 b. This order does not apply to hearings in Small Claims or Unlawful Detainer cases.


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- c. This order does not apply to hearings related to requests for Civil Harassment, Workplace Violence, or Elder or Dependent Adult Abuse restraining orders.
- 8. To the extent permitted by law and authorized by the judicial officer presiding over the matter, court hearings should be conducted using remote technology, e.g., ZOOM video/teleconferencing, VCourt, etc.

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

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 8, 2021



ROBERT B. WESTBROOK,
PRESIDING JUDGE

