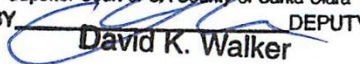


FILED

MAY 12 2020

Clerk of the Court
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY  DEPUTY
David K. Walker

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

**GENERAL ORDER REGARDING FACE COVERINGS REQUIRED IN
COURTHOUSES**

This Court HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Since March 4, 2020, the State of California has been in a State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor and the County of Santa Clara Public Health Officer have issued several orders to help combat the spread of the virus, including orders to shelter in place, maintain social distancing, and restrict operation of essential businesses. The Court must employ all necessary emergency protective measures to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Consistent with the Order of the County Health Officer dated April 29, 2020, and in order to protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, judicial officers, litigants, witnesses, and law enforcement personnel in connection with the COVID-19 threat, it is hereby ordered that all persons, including Court staff and judicial officers, who enter the courthouses must wear a face covering in all public areas of the court and shared work spaces. Face coverings may include a mask, scarf, or any other cloth material that covers both the nose and mouth. Any person without a face covering may be denied entry to the courthouse or a courtroom.

1 3. All persons entering the courthouses must maintain social distancing of at least
2 six (6) feet to the greatest extent feasible, unless they have a legitimate need to be closer than six
3 (6) feet (for example, to confer with their client or co-counsel).

4 4. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering may request an exemption from
5 this Order. Requests of this nature will be heard by the judicial officer in the courtroom where
6 the person is required to be present or is requesting to be allowed to observe. The person will be
7 directed to proceed to the courtroom in which they have a matter, or which they are requesting to
8 observe, required to maintain a distance of six (6) feet from anyone else, and the judicial officer,
9 in his or her discretion, will determine whether there is good cause to exempt the person from
10 wearing a face covering or to take other action, including but not limited to ordering the person
11 to be removed from the courtroom and/or providing access to the courtroom proceedings through
12 a public access listen only line or some other form of remote proceeding as appropriate.

13 5. Judicial officers have discretion in their individual courtrooms to allow persons,
14 including themselves, to remove their face coverings for periods of time for purposes such as
15 ensuring the court reporter and/or electronic recording device can clearly report or record the
16 proceedings and any other communication that occurs in the courtroom. A judicial officer
17 exercising this discretion should ensure that proper social distancing of six (6) feet can be
18 achieved to the greatest extent feasible. Since judicial officers generally are situated six (6) feet
19 or more from other participants in the courtroom, they retain discretion to determine whether
20 they will utilize a face shield when conducting proceedings in court.

21 6. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering after being directed to do so by a
22 judicial officer may be removed from the courthouse for failure to comply with this Order.

23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24
25 Dated: May 12, 2020



Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan
Santa Clara County Superior Court