

FILED

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

JUL 30 2021

**IN RE: USE OF FACE COVERINGS)
OR MASKS IN COURTHOUSE DURING)
COVID-19 PANDEMIC)**

General Order No. 21-187

**PATRICK KEANEY
Clerk, U.S. District Court**

Deputy Clerk

GENERAL ORDER

The Court continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. On July 27, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") issued Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. This updated guidance recommends that fully vaccinated individuals should wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission of the COVID-19 virus. The CDC's COVID-19 tracking module reflects that 24 of the 26 Eastern District counties are in the "high transmission rate" as of July 26, 2021. Consequently, the Court is reluctantly obliged to reinstitute a policy on the use of face coverings or masks for individuals entering the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse.


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective July 29, 2021, all persons seeking entry to , or occupying, the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse must wear a face covering or mask while in public areas of the courthouse. The face covering or mask must completely conceal the wearer's nose and mouth at all times. Children two years of age or younger are relieved of this requirement. Any visitor seeking entry to the Courthouse without a face covering or mask will be provided a mask or, if they refuse to wear a mask, will be required to contact by telephone the office to be visited, or the Court Clerk's Office, to explore alternatives to entering the courthouse. The United States Marshal, his Deputies, and the Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals not wearing a face covering or mask.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that judges have discretion to allow fully vaccinated individuals who appear in their courtrooms the option of removing their face coverings to facilitate court proceedings. However, unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear face coverings or masks at all times in all areas of the courthouse. Otherwise, fully vaccinated individuals must wear face coverings or masks in public spaces within the courthouse where two or more persons are congregated. Consistent with CDC guidance, judges may establish guidelines for chambers staff and Court Unit Executives may likewise establish guidelines for employees in their areas.

This Order supersedes General Order No. 21-11 only with respect to the wearing of face coverings or masks. All other provisions of General Order No. 21-11, including those related to screening/entry procedures, remain in effect.

The Court will continue to monitor the directives from the CDC and local health officials and will reevaluate its procedures related to the COVID-19 virus as needed. The procedures contained herein shall remain in effect until further order of the Court.

It is so ordered this 30th day of July, 2021.



RONALD A. WHITE
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT