

FILED

MAR - 7 2022

PATRICK KEANEY
Clerk, U.S. District Court

By _____
Deputy Clerk

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

IN RE: USE OF FACE COVERINGS)
OR MASKS IN COURTHOUSE DURING) General Order No. 22-6
COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

GENERAL ORDER

The Court continues to evaluate its response to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide employees, jurors, and visitors with authoritative guidelines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has issued updated guidance regarding indoor mask recommendations. These guidelines weigh hospitalizations for COVID-19 and the proportion of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients in local hospitals for COVID-19 more heavily than rates of new infections alone. These new metrics result in a reduction in indoor mask wearing recommendations nationally, within the State of Oklahoma, and within a greater number counties in the Eastern District than the previously utilized metrics. Specifically, 22 of the 26 Eastern District counties are no longer in the "high" community level category wherein masks are recommended in public settings regardless of vaccination status or individual risk.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective March 7, 2022, the Court's General Order 21-16 requiring all persons entering the courthouse facilities to be masked is superseded. Masks are now optional within the Ed Edmondson Federal Courthouse. Individuals are still advised to monitor their health and stay home if they suspect they are infected with COVID-19. The screening/entry procedures set forth under General Order 21-11 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 7th day of March, 2022.

Ronald A. White

RONALD A. WHITE
CHIEF JUDGE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT