

**KITSAP COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

---

IN RE THE KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE  
PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

**No. 2022-06A**  
**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
**RE – MASKING**

---

**THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Court finds and concludes as follows:**

- 1.) Covid cases have dropped precipitously in recent weeks from the extremely high levels of the Covid Omicron variant spike. On January 14, 2022, the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) reported a Covid rate of 1,573 cases per 100,000 Kitsap County residents. On March 6, 2022, KPHD reported a Covid rate of 61 cases per 100,000 residents.
- 2.) On March 12, 2022, the State of Washington lifted most indoor mask mandates.
- 3.) Members of the public typically access indoor spaces based on personal choice and a voluntary basis. Examples include schools, stores, restaurants, event venues and gyms. Courthouses are different. While members of the public may come to the Kitsap County Courthouse voluntarily, some are required to come by need, by summons, by arrest, or by subpoena, because their significant rights are at stake, or other circumstances.
- 4.) During court proceedings, particularly in-person jury trials, it is common for large numbers of persons to gather in one courtroom, but Kitsap County District Court has been able to safely accommodate these numbers by using ZOOM video conferencing and maintaining social distancing requirements in the courtrooms.
- 5.) The Kitsap County Jail is continuing with their masking requirement. Kitsap County Jail inmates are frequently brought to all of Kitsap County Superior Court’s courtrooms. Kitsap County District Court differs from Superior Court because Kitsap County Jail inmates are not transported to District Court. All District Court in custody matters are heard via video conferencing.
- 6.) Kitsap County Superior & District Court continue to consult with the Kitsap Public Health District. Kitsap County Superior and District Courts make all final public health decisions with respect to Courthouse operations.

**IT IS ORDERED:**

- 1.) This Order is effective March 15, 2022.
- 2.) Face coverings/masks are no longer required in Kitsap County District Court courtrooms, common areas or the District Court office.
- 3.) All persons must wear a facial covering/mask at all times regardless of vaccination status while in any Kitsap County Superior Court courtroom (including Superior Court jury deliberation rooms). Masks will also be required at the Kitsap County Courthouse jury assembly room. Masking signage will be posted accordingly.
- 4.) A face covering/mask is not required in the hallways and bathrooms of the Kitsap County Courthouse.
- 5.) Six-foot social distancing will continue to be required in all Kitsap County District Court courtrooms, and hearings will continue to be held via ZOOM video conferencing per previous Administrative Orders.
- 6.) This Order shall be subject to revision at any time as the public health situation changes.
- 7.) All other Emergency Administrative Orders previously issued by this Court remain in effect, where consistent with this order.

The Kitsap County Courthouse remains open to the public.

DATED – March 15, 2022

*/s/ Signed Electronically*

---

CLAIRE A. BRADLEY

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County District Court