

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Supreme Court has considered updated [guidance](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and communicated with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) regarding COVID-19 community levels in New Jersey. Consistent with new public health metrics, the Court no longer will require individuals in state court locations to wear masks or maintain social distancing, except that all participants in in-person jury trials and in-person grand juries will continue to wear masks and will maintain social distancing of at least three feet.

The Judiciary will continue to follow protocols designed to support public health and safety in all state court locations. Court users are also asked to continue to follow public health recommendations to reduce risks to themselves and others. Individuals who have tested positive for or been diagnosed with COVID-19 should comply with isolation requirements. As of today, those requirements include staying away from others for five days, or longer if symptoms persist, and wearing a face mask for at least five days after isolation ends. Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 should follow quarantine requirements. Whether based on COVID-19 or other factors, judges and court staff will continue to handle requests for virtual participation or rescheduling on a case-by-case basis.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that effective immediately and until further order:

1. The provisions of the Court's [June 9, 2020](#) Order are concluded.
2. Individuals who enter or occupy a Judiciary facility (including Probation facilities and Judiciary areas of mixed-use facilities) are not required to wear a face mask or face covering, except as otherwise provided in this Order.
3. Individuals who enter or occupy a Judiciary facility can always choose to wear a face mask or face covering. The Judiciary will continue to provide face masks upon request.
4. Individuals who enter or occupy a Judiciary facility are not required to maintain social distancing, except as otherwise provided in this Order.
5. Jury Trials and Grand Juries.
 - a. All participants in in-person jury trials and in-person grand juries must wear a face mask. This requirement is subject to existing exceptions, including accommodating individuals who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, and allowing participants to lower their mask when substantially distanced or separated by a barrier, subject to the judge's discretion;

- b. All participants in in-person jury trials and in-person grand juries must maintain social distancing of at least three feet. This requirement is subject to existing exceptions, including when an attorney and client are seated close together and separated by a clear barrier;
 - c. Jury selection will continue to begin virtually. Jurors who report virtually can speak with the judge, in the presence of the attorneys and parties, as to any concerns about reporting for an in-person trial or grand jury; and
 - d. Effective April 15, 2022, all county grand juries, and State Grand Jury, will be required to meet in person.
6. The Court may adjust the provisions of this Order based on changes in COVID-19 community levels or revised public health guidance.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: March 9, 2022