

In the Iowa Supreme Court

CLERK SUPREME COURT

**In the Matter of Ongoing Provisions)
For Coronavirus/COVID-19 Impact)
on Court Services**

May 14, 2021 Order

The Iowa Judicial Branch is balancing the need to take measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 with its commitment to conduct the important work of the courts. Accordingly, the supreme court notes the widespread availability of the COVID-19 vaccine and the recent revisions to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding people who are fully vaccinated.

The order revises paragraphs 4 and 5 of the amended November 24, 2020 order.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. **Face coverings.** Pursuant to CDC guidelines, fully vaccinated people entering court-controlled areas are not required to wear face coverings, and thus the face mask or face shield requirements in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the supreme court's amended November 24, 2020 order do not apply to fully vaccinated people. Signage in court-controlled areas shall be modified to reflect this change. The face covering requirements of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the amended November 24, 2020 order otherwise remain in effect for unvaccinated people. Judges shall inform attendees at the start of court proceedings that those who have been fully vaccinated may remove their face coverings, leaving to attendees to provide for their own compliance.

For purposes of this order, "fully vaccinated people" is defined under CDC guidelines to refer to individuals at least two weeks after they have received the second dose in a two-dose series of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, or at least two weeks after they have received a single-dose Johnson and

Johnson (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine. “Unvaccinated people” refers to individuals who have not completed a vaccination series.

All other requirements in the supreme court’s prior COVID-19-related supervisory orders, including physical distancing requirements, remain in effect.

The court will continue to monitor circumstances and update this order as necessary.

Dated this 14th day of May, 2021.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice

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