

In the Iowa Supreme Court

In the Matter of Ongoing Provisions)
For Coronavirus/COVID-19 Impact) **February 11, 2022 Order**
on Court Services

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the supreme court has entered orders putting in place measures striving to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to conduct the important work of the courts. After removing for a time a comprehensive mask requirement for court-controlled spaces, the court again implemented a protocol that people entering court-controlled spaces must wear a mask, but that judges in their discretion could permit participants to remove their masks or could take other measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in court proceedings as appropriate. The court instituted this requirement to address concerns with the rising Delta variant, and kept it in place when the Omicron variant followed. With both variants now on the wane, we find it appropriate to end this protocol. The current general mask requirement, a temporary measure reinstated principally to address the rise of infectious COVID-19 variants, may again be discontinued, with judges retaining discretion to address COVID-related safety measures in proceedings as necessary on a case-by-case basis.

Effective February 14, 2022, this order revises paragraph 3 of the December 6, 2021 order as follows:

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

3. Face coverings. People entering court-controlled areas are not required to wear face coverings. Judges, in their discretion, may require face coverings by participants or take other measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in court proceedings as necessary.

All other requirements in the court's December 6, 2021 order remain in effect.

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

Dated this 11th day of February, 2022.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By 

Susan Larson Christensen, Chief Justice