

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
EDGAR COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED

FEB 28 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2022-3

Angela R. Barrett
Circuit Clerk, 5th Judicial Circuit Edgar County

REGARDING FACIAL COVERING MITIGATION MEASURES IN
EDGAR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Circuit Court for Edgar County in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois adopts the following administrative order pertaining to court operations within the Edgar County Courthouse [the Courthouse] during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus [COVID-19] pandemic:

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, the Illinois Supreme Court entered an Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, MR. 30370*, directing all courts to establish and periodically update procedures to minimize potential exposure to and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on judicial operations, while continuing to provide access to justice; subsequent to that date the Court has issued additional orders for resuming court operations;

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2022, the Illinois Supreme Court entered amended Order - *In re: Illinois Courts Response to COVID-19 Emergency, MR. 30370*, which amended order provides in relevant part:

Each circuit court may adopt rules requiring the wearing of masks in courthouses pursuant to appropriate public health guidance. Absent such local rules, the wearing of masks within courthouses is permitted, but not required. Persons choosing to wear a mask may be directed by a judge to remove it if deemed necessary for court purposes, such as when addressing the court or testifying.

WHEREAS, the Presiding Circuit Judge for Edgar County has been granted temporary emergency administrative authority to enter orders affecting the general operation of the Courthouse pursuant to authority granted by the Chief Circuit Judge under Supreme Court Rule 21(b);

WHEREAS, since March 2020, the Circuit Judges of Edgar County have considered changing national, state, and local public health data and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH], and local public health agencies based upon that data, and adopted measures designed to protect the health and welfare of all employees and patrons of the Courthouse, while fulfilling the judiciary's mission to protect the rights and liberties of the People by providing equal access to justice;

WHEREAS, the Circuit Judges of Edgar County have considered changing national, state, and local public health data and the recommendations of the CDC, the IDPH, and local public health agencies based upon that data, and determined that public health conditions include decreasing

COVID-19 infection rates within the County to such a degree that court operations should be modified relaxing certain COVID-19 mitigation measures; all with the continued goals of protecting the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons, while fulfilling the judiciary's mission to provide essential services to the citizens of the County, and attending the court's administrative responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Circuit Judge of Edgar County **FINDING** it is now necessary and appropriate to amend prior administrative orders entered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic while taking into account the mandate of the court to provide access to justice and protect the health and welfare of all Courthouse employees and patrons, and pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 21(b) and the court's inherent authority, acting through the Presiding Judge, adopt the following provisions as the order of the court:

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

1. **Effective Date.** This administrative order is effective March 1, 2022 and its precautionary measures shall remain in effect until amended or modified by further order of the court.
2. **Face Coverings.** Subject to the discretionary authority of the judges presiding over particular hearings/courtrooms to implement their own guidelines and practices, which may require facemasks/face coverings in particular hearings/courtrooms, no person, regardless of vaccination status, shall be required to wear a facemask/face covering or mask at any time when located within the indoor public spaces of the Courthouse. Nothing in this Administrative Order shall be construed to prohibit the wearing of a facemask/face covering by anyone choosing to do so within the indoor public spaces of the Courthouse. However, persons choosing to wear a facemask/face covering may be directed by a judge to remove it if deemed necessary for court purposes, such as when addressing the court or testifying.

Subject to the discretion of all elected and appointed officials, Courthouse personnel may be required to wear a facemask/face covering in their office or work space.

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for individuals choosing to wear facemasks/face coverings within the indoor public spaces of the Courthouse, including the courtrooms.

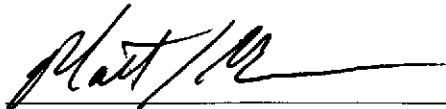
3. Miscellaneous.

- a. The court may issue further orders as necessary to address circumstances and conditions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including re-assessing the provisions of this Administrative Order to determine if additional measures are

required to protect court personnel and the public, and/or whether public health conditions warrant the easing of precautionary measures.

- b. It is further ordered that this Administrative Order be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Edgar County and be made available to the public.
- c. The Clerk of the Circuit Court shall post this Administrative Order on her website.
- d. This Administrative Order shall be posted upon the County's website.
- e. All other general administrative orders not in conflict with this Administrative Order remain in full force and effect.

Dated: this 28th day of February, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt / M", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Sullivan, Presiding Circuit Judge