

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

In the matter of

FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS
DURING COVID-19 EFFECTIVE
OCTOBER 19, 2020

**MISCELLANEOUS
GENERAL ORDER 20-32**

This Order is intended to *supersede Miscellaneous General Order 20-22*. In light of the guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local public health officials,¹ the Court finds it necessary to adopt additional protocols for access to the United States District Court for the District of Alaska courthouses in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (“the Courthouses”). Nothing in this Order relaxes the current restrictions on public access to the Courthouses imposed by Miscellaneous General Order *20-29*. Notwithstanding the expiration of any related Miscellaneous General Orders, the provisions in this Order shall remain in effect until further Order by the Court.

Effective immediately, all persons over two years of age¹ seeking access to, or operating within, the Courthouses are required to wear a face-covering or mask *as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air* at all times while occupying public spaces or common areas, unless otherwise directed by the Court or a Courthouse official. The face covering need not be a medical-grade mask but must completely conceal the wearer’s nose and mouth when worn *and may not contain exhalation valves or vents. The CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks.*² If a medical condition prevents a person from wearing a face covering, they must show proof of the medical condition in

¹ Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recommends that “children under age 2, or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance” should not wear face coverings. How to Wear Cloth Face Coverings, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>. The American Academy of Pediatrics explains that masks and other face coverings may present additional risks for children under the age of two. American Academy of Pediatrics, Masks and Children during COVID-19, <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/masks-and-children-during-covid-19/>.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Recommendations Regarding the Use of Cloth Face Coverings, Especially in Areas of Significant Community-Based Transmission, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>.

the form of a physician's order or other documentation. ***Documentation of a medical condition is subject to review by Court Security Officers and does not guarantee that a person may enter the Courthouse without a face covering.*** The Court Security Officers shall enforce this Order and deny entry to those individuals not wearing a face covering or mask.

All employees or contractors of the Court, Clerk's Office, and U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services, who work alone in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons, may temporarily remove the face covering while in their designated office or workspace. ***All persons entering a private office or work space occupied by an employee of the court shall wear a face covering or mask.***

In addition, effective immediately, the following persons shall not enter any of the Courthouses:

1. Persons currently diagnosed with, or experiencing any symptoms of, COVID-19;³
2. Persons who have had close physical contact within the last 14 days with a person who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
3. Persons who have been asked to self-observe, self-isolate, or self-quarantine by a doctor, hospital, or public health authority within the last 14 days.

Anyone attempting to enter or remain in a federal courthouse in violation of this Order will be escorted from the premises immediately.

DATED this 19th day of October, 2020

/s/ Timothy M. Burgess
Hon. Timothy M. Burgess
Chief United States District Judge

Distribution:

District Judges	Magistrate Judges
U.S. Attorney	Federal Public Defender
Clerk of Court	Court Rules Attorney
Court Librarian	U.S. Marshal
Alaska Bar Assn	U.S. Probation & Pretrial Services
Bankruptcy Judge	Clerk of Court Bankruptcy
Active Attys via ECF	

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Symptoms of Coronavirus, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>.