

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

In the matter of

ENDING OF MASK MANDATE
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

**MISCELLANEOUS GENERAL
ORDER 22-07**

This Miscellaneous General Order removes the masking requirement while in the federal courthouses for the District of Alaska. The Court enters this order due to the continued decrease in COVID-19 cases in the District of Alaska in recent weeks.¹ The Court has also considered the most current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.² As defined by the CDC, 25 of Alaska’s 29 communities are at a medium or low COVID-19 Community Level.³

Effective immediately, unless ordered by a presiding judge in a case, masks and face coverings are not required to be worn by parties to court proceedings, jurors, courthouse staff, or courthouse visitors while they are in the federal courthouses for the District of Alaska. People may choose to wear a mask at any time. The CDC recommends that immunocompromised persons or persons at high risk for severe illness consider taking additional precautions in communities with a medium or high COVID-19 Community Level.⁴ The Court will continue to monitor COVID-19 developments and may reinstate masking requirements if additional communities in

¹ State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, *The Latest COVID-19 Data in Alaska*, <https://covid19.alaska.gov/> (Mar. 2, 2022).

² CDC, *CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19*, www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/t0225-covid-19-update.html (Feb. 25, 2022).

³ CDC, *U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County*, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html (Feb. 24, 2022).

⁴ CDC, *COVID-19 Community Level and COVID-19 Prevention*, www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145 (Feb. 25, 2022).

the District reach a high COVID-19 Community Level.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still considered a national emergency pursuant to the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, *et seq.* The finding made by the Judicial Conference of the United States that “emergency conditions due to the national emergency declared by the President with respect to COVID-19 will materially affect the functioning of the federal courts generally” remains. This Order does not affect the Court’s reauthorization of CARES Act procedures set forth in Miscellaneous General Order 22-05.

DATED this 3rd day of March, 2022.

/s/Sharon L. Gleason
Hon. Sharon L. Gleason
Chief United States District Judge

/s/Joshua M. Kindred
Hon. Joshua M. Kindred
United States District Judge

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