

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

In Re: Amended Policy for Wearing of Face Masks
During the Coronavirus Pandemic

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 384

The court is amending its mask policy in light of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the termination of orders issued by Public Health Madison & Dane County. This order supersedes Administrative Order 366.

Because court proceedings often require people to be in close proximity to each other for extended periods, the court will continue to require that masks be worn during court proceedings. Accordingly, all members of the public, vaccinated or not, who enter the courthouse must wear masks or suitable facial coverings in public areas of the courthouse. Public areas of the courthouse include all spaces other than the individual workspaces of court employees, including especially courtrooms and lobbies where larger groups may sometimes assemble. Court staff, vaccinated or not, must wear masks while in the presence of any member of the public. A participant in a proceeding may, with the permission of the presiding judge, remove his or her mask while testifying, examining witnesses, or addressing the court.

Court personnel are not required by this order to wear masks except in the presence of members of the public. Each court unit may set a mask policy for its own work space when members of the public are not present. Court security officers must wear masks when any jury is convened in the courthouse, but otherwise they need not wear masks outside the presence of members of the public.

This order will remain in effect so long as the court continues to authorize the use of video and telephone conferencing for criminal case events under The CARES Act, H.R. 748.

See Administrative Order 365.

Entered June 1, 2021.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

JAMES D. PETERSON
Chief District Judge