

IN THE KING COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND THE CITIES OF ALGONA¹, AUBURN,
BEAUX ARTS, BELLEVUE, BURIEN, CARNATION, COVINGTON, DUVALL,
KENMORE, PACIFIC, REDMOND, SAMMAMISH, SHORELINE, SKYKOMISH, AND
VASHON ISLAND

IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY) EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TO THE THREAT TO PUBLIC) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
HEALTH.)
) NO. 19-2022
)

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in King County:

WHEREAS, the State of Washington and King County lifted most indoor mask requirements on March 12, 2022;

WHEREAS, although the COVID-19 Omicron variant cases, deaths, and hospitalizations have dropped from the high levels of infection during the winter spike, over the last two weeks the number of COVID cases are increasing;

WHEREAS, unlike other public spaces which people can use voluntarily, hearings in King County District Court jail locations and in custody in-court proceedings are involuntary for those appearing;

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) still recommends masks be worn for close quarter contact;

WHEREAS, the King County Jail is still requiring masks be worn in compliance with CDC recommendations, by all of the inmates housed there;

WHEREAS, there are frequent and current COVID outbreaks in the King County Jail;

WHEREAS, Court operations are deemed an "essential" function pursuant to the Governor's pandemic proclamations and King County District Court is governed by the laws of the State of Washington and the Washington Supreme Court's Emergency Orders;

WHEREAS, the Court has consulted with epidemiology experts from the University of Washington School of Public Health;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. Effective May 9, 2022, all persons appearing in the King County Jail Court room in downtown Seattle, the Maleng Regional Justice Center GB courtroom, and at the SCORE facility shall continue to be required to wear masks or other appropriate facial covering of the mouth and nose when entering and remaining in those specific courtrooms unless they have a documented precluding health condition or disability, are a child under two (2) years of age, or are allowed to temporarily remove the facial covering at the direction of the courtroom judge when necessary to facilitate effective communication. All persons in these courtrooms shall strictly adhere to all directions and restrictions regarding courtroom capacity limits and seating restrictions.
2. In all other King County District Court courtrooms, the public is strongly encouraged to wear masks or other appropriate facial covering of the mouth and nose when entering and remaining in the courtrooms. All persons are subject to the direction of the courtroom judge who may independently require a facemask be worn. All persons in these courtrooms are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the space provided for social distancing when space to do so is available. All Courtrooms will have masks available to the public upon request.
3. In all other public areas of the Redmond Courthouse, Bellevue Courthouse, Issaquah Courthouse, Auburn Justice Center, Burien Courthouse, Shoreline Courthouse, and Vashon Island Courthouse, all persons over the age of two are strongly encouraged to wear a facial covering. District Court defers to King County Superior Court on the requirement of facial covering in the public areas of the King County Courthouse (Seattle) and the Maleng Regional Justice Center (Kent).
4. All King County District Court Employees are encouraged to continue to wear masks or other appropriate facial covering of the mouth and nose-while in court offices, chambers, or other non-public areas. Employees will continue to follow CDC and local recommendations surrounding masking and isolation for testing positive.

5. This Order remains in effect until July 1, 2022, unless extended or revised based upon available public health guidance and statistics. All other Orders of King County District Court remain in effect.

Entered this 6th day of May, 2022.



Matthew York
Chief Presiding Judge
King County District Court
