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FILED
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

MAR - 8 2022

SUPERIOR COURT CLERK

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR KING COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE RESPONSE BY
KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY IN
WASHINGTON STATE

No. 22-0-12050-1

**EMERGENCY ORDER 36 RE:
PUBLIC HEALTH, RE: MASKING**

This matter comes before the Court on the public health emergency in Washington State.

This Order is based upon the Washington State Supreme Court's February 19, 2021 Order. **All parties and persons are encouraged to monitor the King County Superior Court website at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court.aspx> for updates.**

The Court finds and concludes as follows:

1. Covid cases, hospitalizations, and deaths have dropped precipitously in recent weeks from the extremely high levels of the Covid Omicron variant spike. Though numbers have fallen dramatically, on average there were 263 new cases in King County over the past seven days. This seven-day average of new cases exceeds the level of cases from the end of the Delta variant surge in November 2021.
2. On March 12, 2022, the State of Washington and King County will lift most indoor mask mandates.
3. Members of the public access indoor public spaces based on personal choice and on a voluntary basis. Examples include stores, restaurants, event venues, and gyms. But in many instances, courthouses are different.

- 1 4. Some persons come to the King County Superior Court voluntarily, but many others
2 are required to come by need, by summons, by arrest, by subpoena, or other
3 circumstances, or because their significant rights are at stake.
- 4 5. Some of these persons choose to be vaccinated and some do not. The Court must
5 allow access to everyone who comes to court. The Court lacks the personnel to ask
6 the general public who enter our courthouse locations whether they have been
7 vaccinated.
- 8 6. During court proceedings, particularly in-person jury trials, it is common for large
9 numbers of persons to gather in one courtroom.
- 10 7. The Court continues to consult with professors from the University of Washington,
11 School of Public Health. The Court makes all final public health decisions with
12 respect to the operation of the Court and the Courthouses.

13 **IT IS ORDERED:**

- 14 1. This order is effective March 12, 2022.
- 15 2. All persons over the age of three must wear a facial covering at all times
16 regardless of vaccination status while in (i) courtrooms, or (ii) areas where court
17 business is conducted with members of the public at the Maleng Regional Justice
18 Center, the King County Courthouse, the Clark Children and Family Justice
19 Center, or Harborview ITA Court. Masking signage will be posted accordingly.
- 20 3. In all other public areas of the Maleng Regional Justice Center, the King County
21 Courthouse, the Clark Children and Family Justice Center, or Harborview ITA
22 Court, all persons over the age of three are strongly encouraged, but not required,
23 to wear a facial covering while in public areas of these court facilities.
- 24 4. Court employees who work in the Maleng Regional Justice Center, the King
25 County Courthouse, the Clark Children and Family Justice Center, or Harborview

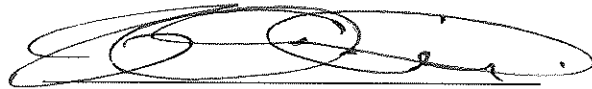
1 ITA Court are strongly encouraged, but not required, to wear facial coverings
2 when in private court offices, chambers, or non-public areas.

- 3 5. This Order shall be subject to revision at any time as the public health situation
4 changes.

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6 This Order supersedes Emergency Order #32.

7 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

8 Dated: March 8, 2022

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12 JUDGE PATRICK OISHI
13 Presiding Judge
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