

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF CLACKAMAS

In the Matter of:)	
)	
)	
IMPLEMENTING CHIEF JUSTICE)	AMENDED Presiding Judge Order
ORDER NO. 20-016)	2020-16
_____)	

On May 14, 2020, Governor Brown approved a Phase One reopening for some parts of the state, easing certain restrictions on Oregonians in relation to the COVID-19 state of emergency. On May 15, 2020, Chief Justice Walters issues Chief Justice Order (CJO) No. 20-016, which imposed “Level 2” and “Level 3” restrictions on court operations effective June 1, 2020. Paragraph 10 of CJO No. 20-016 addresses the use of protective face coverings when entering a courthouse. On June 17, 2020, Governor Brown announced a requirement that face coverings be worn while in indoor public spaces in several Oregon counties, including Clackamas County. Pursuant to the authority described in CJO 20-016, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Definitions. “Courthouse” means the common areas open to the public, courtrooms and work areas for court personnel in the Clackamas County Courthouse. “Protective face covering” means a covering of the nose and mouth to protect against spreading the COVID-19 virus, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.
2. Except for witnesses while testifying, children under five (5) years of age and as provided in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 below, all persons entering the Courthouse are required to wear a protective face covering while in the Courthouse.
3. A judge presiding over a trial or other proceeding in a courtroom may, in the judge’s sole discretion, decline to wear a protective face covering for all or any portion of the trial or proceeding.

4. A judge presiding over a trial or other proceeding in a courtroom may authorize any person participating in the trial or proceeding to temporarily remove the protective face covering to facilitate communication as the judge deems appropriate.
5. Court employees working in an area with no more than four (4) other court employees present and where at least six (6) feet distancing may be maintained may be authorized to temporarily remove a protective face covering while working in that area. The employee must use the protective face covering whenever six (6) feet distancing is not possible to maintain, when more than four (4) others are present in the area and/or when accessing other parts of the Courthouse.
6. Any person seeking to enter the Courthouse without using a protective face covering because of disability, respiratory or other health-related issues, or otherwise for good cause can request an exemption from the Presiding Judge. Exemption requests may be presented to the Presiding Judge at the times set for *ex parte* matters or other times as needed. Persons requesting such an exemption should contact Presiding Court before entering the courthouse.
7. The Court will provide protective face coverings and information about how to use them as needed and as available resources allow.
8. This ORDER is based in the information concerning the risks and spread of the COVID-19 virus currently available to the Court. This order may be revised as further information becomes available. This ORDER is effective on July 24, 2020 and will remain in effect until revised or vacated by order of this Court.

DATED this 23 day of July 2020.



Kathie F. Steele
Clackamas County Circuit Court
Presiding Judge