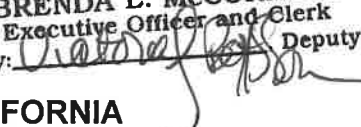


MAR 14 2022

BRENDA L. McCORMICK
Executive Officer and Clerk
By:  Deputy

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER RE: LIFTING OF
MASK REQUIREMENT AND SPECIFIED
SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 22.10**

The Ventura Superior Court is committed to protecting the health and safety of jurors, attorneys, staff, law enforcement, other court users, judges and the general public, while continuing to perform its constitutional and statutory duties. Beginning in December 2021, the court took a number of steps to address the unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in Ventura County and within the court, including reinstituting the requirement that all individuals within the courthouse maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from others (Administrative Order 21.25 (January 4, 2022)) and restating the mandatory mask requirements for all persons entering the courthouses (Administrative Order 22.01 (January 6, 2022)). Subsequently, because the courthouses are routinely visited by numerous members of the public and court proceedings are often conducted with large groups of individuals, the court maintained its mask requirement after the State and Ventura County, beginning February 16, 2022, lifted the requirement in most indoor places for vaccinated individuals.

Consistent with the decline in COVID-19 cases in Ventura County and within the court, the California Department of Public Health effective March 1, 2022, changed the requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings to a "strong recommendation" that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, continue indoor masking.

To continue to protect the health of court users and personnel, pursuant to article VI, section 1 of the state Constitution; Code of Civil Procedure section 128; Government Code

section 68070; California Rules of Court, rule 10.603; the inherent powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 55 Cal. App. 4th 428, 522, and federal state, and local public health guidance,

THEREFORE, THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Beginning March 15, 2022, masks are no longer required in the courthouses, courtrooms or court facilities. Notwithstanding, the court strongly encourages that all court users wear masks within the courthouses, courtrooms and court facilities because masks “remain a critical component” of the State’s “multi-layered approach for protection against COVID-19 infection”. (State of California – Health and Human Services Agency, California Department of Public Health, “Guidance for Use of Face Masks” (February 28, 2022) available at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>). This order is intended to supersede and replace the mask requirements stated in Administrative Order 21.16 (August 19, 2021), Administrative Order 22.01 (January 6, 2022) and Administrative Order 22.06 (February 14, 2022).
2. Beginning March 15, 2022, the court no longer requires that individuals be seated in every other seat in the jury assembly room or courtrooms (including audience seating and the jury box). This provision is intended to supersede and replace the seating requirements stated in Administrative Order 22.06 (February 14, 2022). Notwithstanding, the court strongly encourages individuals to maintain physical distancing in the courthouses (including in all seating areas) to reduce the potential risk of virus transmission.

//

//

//

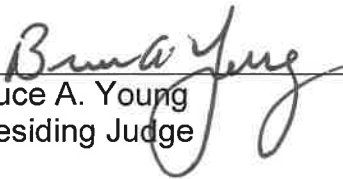
//

//

1 THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE MARCH 15, 2022, WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL
2 FURTHER NOTICE AND MAY BE AMENDED OR SUPERSEDED AS CIRCUMSTANCES
3 REQUIRE.

4 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

5
6 DATED: March 14, 2022

7
8 
9 Bruce A. Young
10 Presiding Judge
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28