

Superior Court
State of California
County of Lake
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
707-263-2374

MICHAEL S. LUNAS

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PRESIDING JUDGE

KRISTA D. LEVIER

COURT EXECUTIVE/CLERK JURY COMMISSIONER

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE: CHANGES TO COURT OPERATIONS

Issued: June 18, 2021

## NOTICE OF MODIFICATION OF ORDER FOR FACE COVERING AND PHYSICAL DISTANCING

On June 17, 2021, the CalOSHA Board voted to modify the current Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) to allow fully vaccinated employees to go without a face covering in the workplace. Governor Newsom has signed an Executive Order to make the modified Emergency Temporary Standards effective immediately. The California Department of Public Health previously released similar guidance for members of the public on June 9, 2021, which, in part, require unvaccinated persons to wear a face covering for indoor public events. In accordance with the current public health directives, the Presiding Judge's General Order On The Requirement Of Wearing Face Coverings And Maintaining Physical Distancing, dated June 4, 2020, will be modified.

Effective June 21, 2021, the revised General Order (Order) will eliminate the physical distancing requirements for the public and will end the face covering requirements for fully vaccinated individuals. As a result, beginning Monday, June 21, those persons who are fully vaccinated will no longer be required to wear a face covering when attending court proceedings or to conduct business with the court. The Order will continue to require that all individuals who are not fully vaccinated continue to properly wear an appropriate face covering at all times while physically present at the court unless determined to be subject to an exemption under the public health directives.

This Public Notice, along with the Order, is intended to inform all persons of the requirement that unvaccinated persons wear a proper face covering for in person attendance at the court facilities. Effective June 21, and continuing until further order, the court will implement compliance verification of vaccine status by permitting vaccinated persons to self-attest that they are fully vaccinated upon entry into the court. In addition, the physical presence of a person while at the court and not wearing a face covering will be considered to self-attest that the person is fully vaccinated. A violation of the Order requiring face covering for unvaccinated persons may result in a person to be unable to physically enter the court facility and to potential sanctions.

The Order will apply to persons appearing for jury service (and to trial jurors) and will require unvaccinated persons to wear a proper face covering at all times physically present at court including jury selection. As a result of the CalOSHA ETS, the court will implement a compliance verification process whereby the court will verify and document vaccination status of prospective jurors at the time of

reporting for jury service. Pending further order, the court will continue to conduct jury selection at the Fairgrounds facility and will continue to implement physical distancing for juror seating.

In accordance with the CalOSHA ETS, the employees and staff of the court who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear a proper face covering while present at the court.

It is also important to advise that anyone may choose to wear a face covering while attending court. The fact that an individual is wearing a face covering should not be interpreted to conclude that the individual is unvaccinated. The court will undertake appropriate action, including contempt, against abusive, harassing, or other inappropriate behavior toward employees, parties, attorneys, or others, while present at the court, related to the wearing of face coverings, as an interference with the process of the court.

As set forth in the Public Notice of June 11, in many instances, the court continues to permit appearance and participation in court by video-conference and telephone in lieu of in-person attendance. The option is available to the public regardless of vaccination status.

As the situation is evolving, we will keep the public up to date on our website www.lake.courts.ca.gov.