

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WARREN COUNTY
SPECIAL ORDER FOR COURTHOUSE ACCESS DURING
COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

ORDER

WHEREAS, the courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia are still governed by a Declaration of Judicial Emergency, declared by and renewed by the Supreme Court of Virginia, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aimed at maintaining critical court functions while limiting contact of citizens to slow the spread of the disease,

WHEREAS, the Orders of the Supreme Court and of this Court have given chief judges and presiding judges discretion to determine appropriate safety protocols for their courts and courthouses, and

WHEREAS, vaccinations are readily available and coronavirus case numbers in this community are declining;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that the prior requirement of the Judicial Emergency Orders of the Supreme Court of Virginia, the Special Orders of this Court, and the Plan for the Safe Conduct of Jury Trials are modified to provide that the wearing of a protective mask in the Warren County Courthouse shall be optional, subject to the following conditions and exceptions:

1) Inmates transported to the Courthouse shall be required to wear a mask while in the Courthouse, unless permitted to remove the mask by the presiding judge, such as when they are testifying or otherwise addressing the Court;

2) The presiding judge in any case shall have the discretion to require masks in his or her courtroom, or in deliberative areas of the Courthouse;

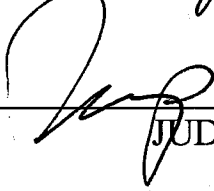
3) Except while testifying or otherwise addressing the Court, no person shall be compelled to not wear a mask;

4) The supervising authority within any office or department located or working in the Courthouse shall have the right to require that office's or department's employees to wear masks (e.g., the Sheriff may require his employees to mask in the Courthouse, a Clerk may require the employees of the Clerk's Office to mask in the office, etc.); and

5) Any person having business in the Courthouse who is at high risk from or vulnerable to coronavirus is encouraged to notify the court or office where they have their business in advance if they feel others around them should be masked, so the judge or supervising authority can consider exercising their discretion to require masking.

This Order shall be subject to further adjustments as the public health situation and the Court's schedule may require.

ENTERED February 24, 2022


JUDGE