

MAR 15 2022

**KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

DAVID T. LEWIS III

IN RE THE KITSAP COUNTY COURTHOUSE AND THE
PANDEMIC OUTBREAK OF THE CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

No. 2022-06

**EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
RE – MASKING**

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being issued in response to the current pandemic outbreak of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Court finds and concludes as follows:

- 1.) Covid cases have dropped significantly in recent weeks from the extremely high levels of the Covid Omicron variant spike. On January 14, 2022, the Kitsap Public Health District (KPHD) reported a Covid rate of 1,573 cases per 100,000 Kitsap County residents. On March 6, 2022, KPHD reported a Covid rate of 61 cases per 100,000 residents.
- 2.) On March 12, 2022, the State of Washington lifted most indoor mask mandates. Likewise, social distancing is no longer required in many circumstances.
- 3.) Members of the public typically access indoor spaces based on personal choice and a voluntary basis. Examples include stores, restaurants, event venues and gyms. Courthouses are different. While members of the public may come to the Kitsap County Courthouse voluntarily, some are required to come by need, by summons, by arrest, by subpoena, or other circumstances.
- 4.) During court proceedings, particularly in-person jury trials, it is common for large numbers of persons to gather in one courtroom.
- 5.) The Kitsap County Jail is continuing with their masking requirement. Kitsap County Jail inmates are frequently brought up to all of Kitsap County Superior Court's courtrooms for in-person appearances.
- 6.) Kitsap County Superior Court continues to consult with the Kitsap Public Health District. Kitsap County Superior Court makes all final public health decisions with respect to Courthouse and Superior Court courtroom operations.

IT IS ORDERED:

- 1.) This Order is effective March 15, 2022.
- 2.) All persons must wear a mask at all times regardless of vaccination status while in a Kitsap County Superior Court courtroom (including Superior Court jury deliberation rooms). Masks will also be required at the Kitsap County Courthouse jury assembly room. Masking signage will be posted accordingly.
- 3.) A mask is not required in the hallways and bathrooms of the Kitsap County Courthouse.
- 4.) Six-foot social distancing is no longer required in Kitsap County Superior Court courtrooms.
- 5.) This Order shall be subject to revision at any time as the public health situation changes.

The Kitsap County Courthouse remains open to the public.

DATED – March 15, 2022

/s/ Signed Electronically

KEVIN D. HULL

Presiding Judge

Kitsap County Superior Court