

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF WEARING MASKS
OR FACE COVERINGS IN COURT
FACILITIES IN MARICOPA COUNTY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2021-119

(AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDERS NO. 2021-103, 2021-104, &
2021-105)

Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2021-109 allows the presiding superior court judge of a county the discretion to modify that county’s judicial branch health emergency orders to address the use of mask wearing, social distancing, and other measures for that county. In Superior Court Administrative Order Nos. 2021-103, 2021-104, and 2021-105, restrictions on physical access to court facilities in Maricopa County were lifted for the Superior Court, Justice Courts and Municipal Courts effective July 19, 2021.

There has been an increase in the rate of new cases of Covid-19 in Maricopa County, due largely to the more contagious Delta variant of the virus. Currently there are 159 cases of Covid-19 per 100,000 people in Maricopa County, qualifying the county as a “high transmission area” under safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. After consultation with the Maricopa County Public Health Department, and consultation with the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, Administrative Order Nos. 2021-103, 2021-104, and 2021-105 are therefore amended as follows:

IT IS ORDERED that effective August 9, 2021 and until further notice, all judicial branch employees and judicial officers, including employees and judicial officers of all justice courts and municipal courts, shall wear a mask or face covering when they are in a court facility in Maricopa County. The only exception is that when they are at their workspace, employees and judicial officers may remove their mask or face covering if they are not required to interact with the public and they are more than six feet away from any other person.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective August 9, 2021 and until further notice, all other persons entering a court facility in Maricopa County are required to wear a mask or face covering at all times that they are inside the facility. Any person who refuses to wear a mask or face covering as directed by court personnel will be denied access to the facility. If a participant is denied physical access to a courthouse for refusing to wear a face covering, the participant must contact the assigned judicial division to determine whether the person can participate in the proceeding using an audio or video connection.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that during in-courtroom proceedings, the judicial officer may authorize the temporary removal of masks or face coverings for purposes of witness testimony, defendant identification, making an appropriate record, or other reasons deemed necessary by the judicial officer provided that appropriate social distancing or other protective measures are followed.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2021.

/s/ Joseph C. Kreamer
Hon. Joseph C. Kreamer
Associate Presiding Judge
on behalf of Hon. Joseph C. Welty
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: All Superior Court Judges
All Superior Court Commissioners
All Justices of the Peace in Maricopa County
All Municipal Court Judges in Maricopa County
Hon. Jeff Fine, Clerk of the Superior Court
Hon. Allister Adel, Maricopa County Attorney
Jennifer Paetkau, Office of Public Defense Services
Dave Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Richard Woods, Deputy Court Administrator
Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator
Shawn Friend, Deputy Court Administrator
Karen Westover, Regional Courts Administrator
All Department Administrators
Sean Gibbs, Director of Security