

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF GUILFORD

SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT

21- R 710 FILED

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER – GUILFORD COUNTY COURTS**

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 18 enter this Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Roy Cooper's continuing declaration of a statewide emergency and Chief Justice Paul Newby's Administrative Order in response to the coronavirus COVID-19.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that on March 13, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency and recognized that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends that people at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19 avoid large groups of people as much as possible" and further recognized that the "people at high risk of severe illness" are "adults over 65 years, those with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes, or with weakened immune systems."

WHEREAS on JULY 29, 2021, THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER INDICATED THE FOLLOWING:

*"WHEREAS, because the Delta variant is more contagious than the original virus or other current COVID-19 variants, it quickly became the most common kind of COVID-19 in North Carolina during summer 2021, and now, the Delta variant makes up more than eighty percent (80%) of all new COVID-19 cases in North Carolina; and*

*WHEREAS, the Delta variant's growing dominance, coupled with its increased transmissibility, has led to a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations; and*

*WHEREAS, on June 25, 2021, 388 new COVID-19 cases were reported, and 400 people were hospitalized with COVID-19, but one month later (on July 25, 2021), 1,910 new COVID-19 cases were reported, and 954 people were hospitalized with COVID-19; and WHEREAS, over recent weeks, and despite the overall progress the state has made during the pandemic, North Carolina is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases,"*

WHEREAS on July 28, 2021, Guilford County reinstated its mandatory mask policy "for all persons inside of any county facility, regardless of their vaccination status."

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides "All courts shall be open; every person for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person, or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice shall be administered without favor, denial or delay."

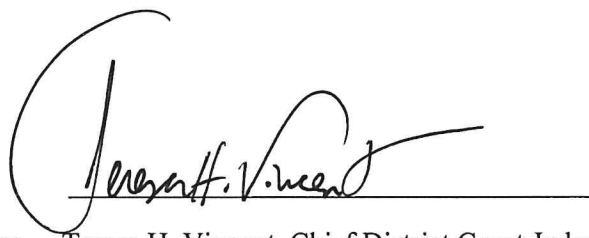
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. The general public, jurors, court personnel and attorneys shall wear a face-covering ("mask") while in the Guilford County Courthouses, except as follows:
  - Guilford County Court Department Leaders (The Clerk of Superior Court, Public Defender, District Attorney, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge) may allow staff to work in the offices without wearing a mask if they are fully vaccinated, and socially distanced from others.

THIS the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

/s/ John O. Craig

John O. Craig, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Teresa H. Vincent, Chief District Court Judge