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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GASTON

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT DIVISIONS

FILED

2022 FEB 21 P 4:23
)
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
GASTON CO., N.C.
)
BY)

NOW COMES the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 27A, who hereby jointly enter this amended administrative order pursuant to their administrative supervision and authority over the operation of superior and district courts, according to N.C.G.S. 70-41.1 and N.C.G.S. 7A-146 as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 27A of North Carolina, respectively;

THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER is being entered to ensure the fair and proper administration of justice to mitigate the public health threat posed by the Coronavirus (COVID-19);

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that the best protection against the virus, including the Omicron variant, is vaccination;

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that a constitutional mandate exists that all courts shall be open and that justice shall be administered without favor, denial or delay, and balanced against an inherent duty to prioritize and protect the health and safety of judicial officials, personnel and the public;

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper urged the removal of such mandates in a televised press conference on February 17, 2022;

IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that the community's rate of positivity within the 27A Judicial District has substantially decreased in the past four weeks.

WHEREFORE, BASED UPON THE FOREGOING and in totality of these circumstances, the undersigned orders:

1. That the mask mandate within the Gaston County Courthouse is hereby RESCINDED.
2. That all department heads within Gaston County Courthouse may implement separate rules and regulations applying to mask-wearing in their departments. It is strongly recommended but not required that those individuals at high risk continue to mask when social distancing is not practical or possible.

Also, *effective immediately*, No Person Shall Enter Gaston County Courthouse if any of the following apply:

1. S/he is sick or experiencing any symptoms of Covid-19, including:
 - Fever
 - Chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion
 - Runny nose
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Diarrhea

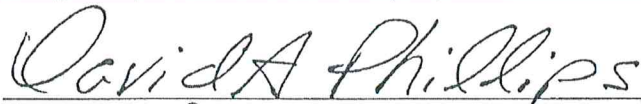
2. S/he has been in direct contact with a Covid-19 positive person.

3. S/he is awaiting results from a rapid or PCR Covid-19 test.

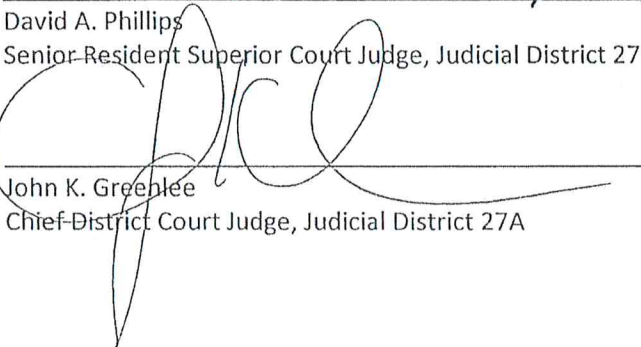
4. S/he is required to quarantine, according to local health officials or CDC guidelines.

The foregoing listed precautions shall apply to all court personnel, elected officials, law enforcement, jurors, attorneys, county employees, and any other persons having business within the Gaston County Courthouse.

This the 21 day of February, 2022, and effective February 22, 2022.



David A. Phillips
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge, Judicial District 27A



John K. Greenlee
Chief District Court Judge, Judicial District 27A