

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

FILED

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION

COUNTY OF ROWAN

2020 JUL 21 A 10:11 FILE NO:

20 R 345

ROWAN CO., C.S.C.

BY 

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
REGARDING FACE MASKS**

It appearing to the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Superior Court Judicial District 19 C that the Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, has issued certain orders and directives concerning the operation of the courts of this State during the present COVID-19 pandemic; that the overwhelming majority of federal, state, and local public health officials and medical experts in the field of infectious diseases have advised people to wear face masks or coverings to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus; that the undersigned previously has issued administrative orders permitting and encouraging the wearing of masks in the courtrooms of Rowan County; that the number of COVID-19 cases in Rowan County and in the State of North Carolina have continued to rise since the entry of those administrative orders; that the Governor of North Carolina issued Executive Order No. 147 on 24 June 2020 requiring all persons, subject to certain enumerated exceptions, to wear face masks or coverings in a number of settings including retail businesses, restaurants, child care facilities, certain high-density occupational settings, and in state government agencies headed by members of the Governor's Cabinet; and that Executive Order No. 147 did not address the Judicial Branch of state government but encouraged state and local agencies to adopt policies that required face coverings. That Chief Justice Beasley entered an additional order on July 17, 2020 requiring that ALL persons wear a face mask in all courthouses throughout North Carolina, subject to the enumerated exceptions of Governor Cooper's order of June 24, 2020.

It is therefore ORDERED that all persons including attorneys, law enforcement officers, court staff, litigants, and members of the public shall wear medical style face masks or similar face coverings (hereinafter "face masks" or "masks") at ALL times in the superior and district courtrooms of Rowan County and in all hallways and waiting areas adjacent thereto, unless he or she is at a social distancing space of at least 6 feet from other persons. The mask shall cover the mouth and nose of mouth of the person wearing it. A person wearing a mask shall remove it upon the request of the court if, in the judgment of the court, the temporary removal of the mask is necessary to hear the person or is essential to enable the court, attorneys, or jurors to evaluate the credibility of the speaker or to make a necessary identification of the wearer.

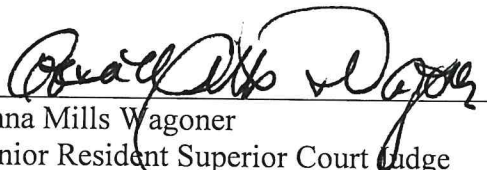
It is further ORDERED that bailiffs and courthouse security officers are authorized to require a person entering the Rowan County Court House or a superior or district courtroom of Rowan County to remove a mask if, in their discretion, the mask poses a security concern or impedes a necessary identification of the person.

It is further ORDERED that the above facemask requirement shall not apply to any person who due to a legitimate physical, medical, or behavioral condition or disability claims that he or she should be exempt from the requirement to wear a mask. Any person claiming such exemption shall not be required to produce documentation or proof of condition or disability.

It is further ORDERED that any person who willfully violates this order shall be subject to the contempt provisions of Chapter 5A of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

This order shall take effect upon its entry and shall remain in full force and effect until revoked or modified by the undersigned.

So ORDERED, this the 21 day of July 2020



Anna Mills Wagoner
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge
Superior Court Judicial District 19C