

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF CLEVELAND  
COUNTY OF LINCOLN

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 27B  
PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT 39

Cleveland County Record No. 22-R-76

Lincoln County Record No. 22-R-12

IN RE: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) )  
 )  
Joint District and Superior Court )  
Administrative Order Regarding )  
Facial Coverings in Judicial Facilities )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER**  
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

NOW COMES the undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge for Judicial District 27B who jointly enter this administrative order pursuant to their administrative supervision and authority over the operation of the Superior Courts and District Courts under NCGS 70-41.1 and NCGS 7A-146 as Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge respectively for Judicial District 27B of North Carolina.

WHEREAS, in light of recent developments with respect to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the following:

1. Through a combination of circumstances, it now appears that many of the threats presented by the potential transmission of the COVID virus have now lessened substantially, including:
  - a. Through a combination of vaccine participation and “herd immunity,” the threat of infection appears to be substantially reduced, as reflected by drastic reductions in local cases, deaths and hospitalizations; and
  - b. The recent availability of effective treatment medications enhance the treatment options for persons who continue to become infected.
2. The Governor has now removed mask mandates for all public gatherings; and
3. The Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court previously rescinded all Emergency Directives with respect to court operations and now has issued an Order directing that all courts in North Carolina return to full operations; and
4. The recognition that there is a universal desire to return to a more normal way of life.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Effective immediately and upon the entry of this order, facial coverings are now optional for all person(s) entering the public and common areas of the Cleveland County Courthouse and Lincoln County Courthouse facilities; and
2. Each presiding judge retains sole discretion and authority of his/her courtroom, particularly to order the wearing of facial covering as the circumstance of each courtroom setting and trial conditions may require in the determination by each presiding judge; and
3. Front entrances and all courtrooms of the Cleveland County Courthouse and Lincoln County Courthouse will be supplied with facial coverings for persons who may choose to wear one and/or should they be required in any courtroom pursuant to paragraph two (2) of this order.

This the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2022.

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Forrest D. Bridges  
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Judicial District 27B

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Jeannette R. Reeves  
Chief District Court Judge  
Judicial District 27B