

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA **FILED** IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

COUNTY OF ALAMANCE **NOTED FEB 25 A 11: 12** SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT

ALAMANCE COUNTY, N.C.

BY: KC ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and Chief District Court Judge of Judicial District 15-A enter this Administrative Order pursuant to Governor Roy Cooper declaring a statewide emergency and Chief Justices Cheri Beasley's and Paul Newby's Administrative Orders 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";

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services recommends for "Mass Gathering Events" that the event organizers, in part: 1) urge everyone who is sick not to attend; 2) encourage those who are at high risk as described above not attend; 3) find ways to give people more physical space to limit close contact as much as possible; and 4) encourage attendees to wash hands frequently;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Cheri Beasley entered an order on May 21, 2020 placing a number of restrictions on in-person proceedings to avoid crowded courtrooms and allow for social distancing;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Cheri Beasley of the North Carolina Supreme Court had issued an Administrative Order effective December 14, 2020 that most Superior and District Court activities in the State be suspended for the next thirty days;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that on January 14, 2021 Chief Justice Paul Newby entered an order allowing Emergency Directive 1 to expire and restoring to local judicial officials substantial decision-making authority over when and how to conduct jury trials and other in-person proceedings;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that on May 14, 2021, the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, eliminated Emergency Directive 21 that pertains to face coverings in court facilities and instead leaves that decision to the informed discretion of local court officials;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that on May 14, 2021, the Governor of the State of North Carolina, in Executive Order No. 215, fully lifted the indoor face covering requirement on most businesses and operations in North Carolina;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that on May 13, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) issued new Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People that advised that currently authorized COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19, that fully vaccinated people are less likely to transmit COVID-19 to others, and recommended that “[i]ndoor and outdoor activities pose minimal risk to fully vaccinated people” and that in most settings, “fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing face coverings;”

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that on July 27, 2021, the CDC issued revised guidance that due to the DELTA variant, even fully vaccinated individuals should resume wearing face coverings in indoor settings in counties where COVID-19 transmission is “substantial,” or “high;”

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that in August, 2021 the CDC data indicated that Alamance County has “substantial” transmission of COVID-19;

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;”

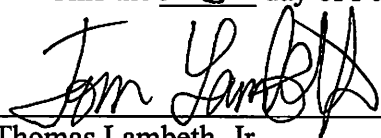
AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that on February 24, 2022, Chief Justice Newby issued a Proclamation advising “all judicial officials to resume immediately full courthouse operations and administer justice without further delay as mandated by the North Carolina Constitution.”

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Effective immediately full courthouse operations will resume.
2. Each presiding judge in his or her sound discretion maintains inherent authority to operate their court safely and efficiently.
3. Face coverings or masks are no longer mandated in the Alamance County Courthouses. Individuals may wear a face covering if they choose to make that personal decision.
4. No person with the coronavirus or flu-like symptoms should enter the courthouses of the District.

5. Continuances for medical reasons must be brought to a judge and shall not be granted by the District Attorney's Office or the Clerk's Office.

This the 25 day of February, 2022.



D. Thomas Lambeth, Jr.
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge



Bradley Reid Allen, Sr.
Chief District Court Judge