

22R35

2nd AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
GOVERNING COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IN
ON SLOW, DUPLIN, SAMPSON, AND JONES COUNTIES

FILED

2022 FEB 23 P 3:45

ON SLOW CO. C.S.C.

Now comes the undersigned Chief District Court Judge and Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District Four and enters the following Administrative Order related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Whereas, a previous order was entered on January 3, 2022, that had the goal to protect the health, safety and well-being of the citizens who seek orderly access to our courts and judicial systems. This most recent order required face-coverings to be worn by the general public, jurors, court personnel and attorneys in the common areas of all courthouse facilities and in the courtroom.

Based on the foregoing, the undersigned orders that the following modifications be made to the previous order entered by the undersigned on January 3, 2022,

1. Fully vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear face masks in order to enter a courthouse or while they are in the common areas.
2. Face masks are **strongly recommended** for those who are not vaccinated. If necessary, a judicial official, in reaching a decision as to the level of precautions necessary for their courtroom or workspace can inquire as to whether a person present has been fully vaccinated.
3. All individuals who wish to continue to wear masks will be permitted to do so.
4. All judicial officials can establish the precautions, rules and protocols that will be required in their courtroom or chambers.
5. Each department head, assistant, or deputy clerk, after consultation with the Clerk of Court, will be allowed to determine what precautions will be required in their office or workspace.
6. It is encouraged that social distancing be maintained, but the presiding judicial official can set what that distance should be based upon the availability of space and the needs of the venue. This includes what space can be used for jury trials and deliberations.

7. Written screening devices will continue to be filled out by prospective jurors prior to being brought into the courtroom on their first day of service. Daily screening devices in the courtroom will not be required.

8. Juror questionnaires will continue to be utilized by the court. They will be collected from the attorneys after jury selection is completed and retained by the clerk.

9. Daily courtroom cleaning will continue.

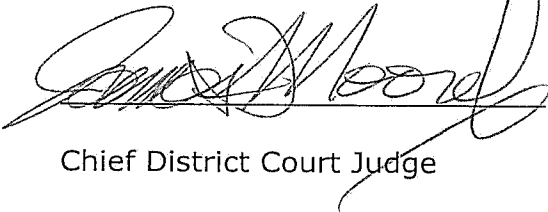
10. Plexiglass barriers in the courts can be removed in the court's discretion but only after consultation with those who use that workspace.

11. Exhibits will not be required to be presented to each juror in a notebook but can be distributed to jurors by the bailiffs.

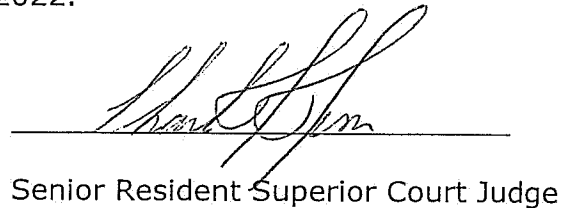
12. Temperature monitoring will be optional in the clerk's and the presiding judges' discretion.

These protocols can be modified without notice based upon changing circumstances and local needs. This order will be posted at the entrances to the courthouses and filed with the Clerk of Court.

This the 23rd day of February, 2022.



Chief District Court Judge



Senior Resident Superior Court Judge