



JOHN W. DAVIS  
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT 9

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES  
AMANDA E. STEVENSON  
ADAM S. KEITH  
CAROLINE S. BURNETTE  
JOHN H. STULTZ  
BENJAMIN S. HUNTER  
S. KATHERINE BURNETTE

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: JUDGES, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, LAW ENFORCEMENT, CLERKS OF COURT, ATTORNEYS AND ANY PERSONS WITH BUSINESS IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTS**

**FROM: JOHN W. DAVIS  
CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASK MANDATES**

**DATE: MAY 10, 2021**

On May 7, 2021 Chief Justice Paul Newby issued a new Order to take effect on May 10, 2021 and expiring on June 6, 2021. In this Order Chief Justice Newby “urged local judicial officials to exercise their own authority to grant additional relief and accommodations as necessary to protect courthouse personnel and the public while honoring the Judicial Branch’s commitment to open courts and the prompt administration of impartial justice.”

The undersigned believes it is in the best interest of the District Court that courtrooms in the Ninth Judicial District continue to require face coverings (except when medically excused) and to increase seating capacity by requiring audience members to be seated 3 feet apart versus the 6 feet now required. These new mask and distancing guidelines will be effective Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, and continuing until further notice. Please note it will not be necessary to renumber current seating as the audience may be seated on each numbered seat and each one and one-half seat (equal-distant between numbers).

Thank you all for your continued efforts and dedicated service to our courts.