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20-24

NORTH CAROLINA
PITT COUNTY

FILED

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE
SUPERIOR AND DISTRICT COURT DIVISIONS

2020 JUL -2 A 10:44

IN RE:

PITT CO.,) C.S.C.
)
BY _____)
)

ADMINISTRATION ORDER REGARDING
MASKS IN COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IN
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The undersigned Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Judicial District 3A enters this Administrative Order in response to coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that on March 10, 2020, a state of emergency was declared in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING TO THE COURT that Article 1, Section 18 of the North Carolina Constitution provides: "Court shall be open. 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 June 1, 2020, the Courts of North Carolina resumed regular functions in accordance with the May 21, 2020, Order of the North Carolina Chief Justice provided that our court system continue to administer justice while protecting the health and safety of court officials, court personnel and the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. All persons, including members of the public, attorneys and courthouse personnel, are required to wear a clean face mask/covering upon entering any Judicial Facility and at all times while within the Pitt County Courthouse and other Judicial Facilities, unless one of the following exceptions apply.
2. Face coverings are not required:
 - a. For people whose religious beliefs prevent them from wearing a face covering;
 - b. For those who cannot wear a face covering due to a medical or behavioral condition;
 - c. While dining or eating or consuming food or beverage;
 - d. In courthouse offices or workstations provided that six feet social distancing can be maintained;

- e. When complying with directions of law enforcement officers; or
 - f. While conducting official business where the wearing of a face covering impedes communications, or is not feasible, or as directed by the presiding judge or judicial official;
2. A "face covering" is defined as one recognized by the Center for Disease Control as helpful in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 in public settings. Medical or single use medical-type face masks are appropriate. If fabric, the face covering should:
- a. fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - b. be secured with ties or ear loops
 - c. include multiple layers of fabric
 - d. allow for breathing without restriction
 - e. be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
4. Deputy sheriff / law enforcement personnel and security personnel are authorized to require the removal of a face covering worn by any person if, in their discretion, the face covering poses a security concern, impedes identification, or otherwise interferes with the administration of justice within Judicial Facilities.
5. Deputy sheriff / law enforcement personnel and security personnel shall deny entry into the Pitt County Courthouse or remove from Courthouse, any person who does not comply with the Requirements of this Masks / Face Coverings Policy.

This Administrative Order supersedes previous Administrative Orders which are no longer in effect. This Administrative Order shall be posted outside of each Court courtroom and shall expire when the declared state of emergency expires or upon further Order of the Court.

This the 1st day of July, 2020.



Marvin K. Blount
Senior Resident Superior Court Judge