



**TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
WAKE COUNTY  
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February 25, 2022

From: Hon. Paul Ridgeway, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge  
Hon. Ned Mangum, Chief District Court Judge  
Hon. Lorrin Freeman, District Attorney  
Hon. Blair Williams, Clerk of Superior Court  
Hon. Chris Graves, Chief Magistrate  
Mr. Deonte Thomas, Chief Public Defender  
Ms. Kellie Myers, Trial Court Administrator

Re: COVID-19 Public Safety Policies - 10th Judicial District

Consistent with recent guidance from state and local health officials, the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge and the Chief District Court Judge, in consultation with the 10th Judicial District Emergency Response Team and the Administrative Office of the Courts, issue the following safety policies, effective Monday, February 28, 2022. These safety policies replace in their entirety the policies contained in the August 12, 2021, **10th Judicial District COVID-19 Safety Policies**. The policies herein are implemented pursuant to the guidance and authority of the Order of the Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court dated June 7, 2021 and shall apply to all individuals in the Judicial Facilities of the 10th Judicial District (Wake County).

These policies shall remain in effect until further notice and are subject to change at any time to reflect current medical and safety advice and guidance. The most current information will be posted to the Wake County COVID-19 Updates page (<https://www.nccourts.gov/locations/wake-county/wake-county-coronavirus-covid-19-updates>).

These policies are a baseline. Hiring authorities, judicial officials, and courthouse security personnel have discretion to require additional safety measures, as needed, to protect courthouse personnel and the public while honoring the Judicial Branch's commitment to open courts and the prompt administration of impartial justice.

#### DEFINITIONS

**Judicial Facilities:** The Wake County Justice Center, the Wake County Courthouse, and those portions of the Hammond Road Detention Facility utilized for judicial functions.

**Courthouse Personnel:** Persons working within Judicial Facilities, including but not limited to judges and staff, magistrates and staff, clerks of court and staff, public defenders and staff, district attorneys and staff, court reporters, interpreters, bailiffs assigned to Judicial Facilities and security personnel assigned to Judicial Facilities.

#### POLICIES

**Face Coverings & Other Safety Measures:** Face coverings and other safety measures *may be required* of all persons, including fully vaccinated persons, in courtrooms or other areas of the Judicial Facilities in the

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discretion of judicial officials, courthouse security personnel, or area supervisors, if deemed necessary to protect the health and safety of all. The judicial official, courthouse security personnel, or area supervisor requiring face coverings shall ensure that all persons within the courtroom are aware of the face covering requirement and that an adequate supply of face coverings are available within the court space. Face covering requirements shall apply uniformly to all persons within the court space.

All persons within the courtrooms and elevators within the Judicial Facilities shall comply with markings and signage, if any, denoting health and safety requirements unless otherwise directed by a judicial official, a deputy, or courthouse security personnel.

Vaccination and Testing: Effective immediately, the Testing Policy applicable to all 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court system employees as set out in the August 19, 2021, **Vaccination and Testing Policy** memo are suspended. All 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court system employees are strongly encouraged to comply with the Vaccination Policy as set out in the August 19, 2021, **Vaccination and Testing Policy** memo and as recommended by public health officials.

Judicial Branch hiring authorities retain the discretion to require compliance with vaccination and testing policies within their individual offices and departments.