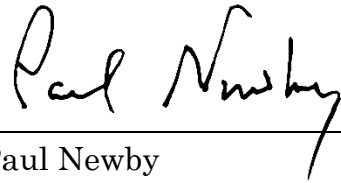


**14 MAY 2021 MODIFICATION
OF THE 10 MAY 2021 ORDER OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

In January of this year, I issued an [order](#) extending a number of emergency directives in response to the public health threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As recognized in the 10 May 2021 [order](#), the immediate threat of COVID-19 is lessening, and many aspects of life are moving toward pre-pandemic normal. Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention modified its position regarding face coverings. I now modify the 10 May 2021 [order](#) to recognize that reality.

This modification eliminates Emergency Directive 21 that pertains to face coverings in court facilities and instead leaves that decision to the informed discretion of local court officials. The remaining emergency directives from the 10 May 2021 [order](#) will remain in place until they expire on 6 June 2021. Local court officials are in the best position to address health and safety concerns. Disagreements among local court officials over proposed safety precautions should be referred to the senior resident superior court judge for resolution.

This order modification becomes effective immediately. Issued this the 14th day of May, 2021.



Paul Newby
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of North Carolina