

**FILED**

October 18, 2021

**OFFICE OF  
APPELLATE COURTS**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN SUPREME COURT

ADM20-8001

**ORDER GOVERNING THE CONTINUING OPERATIONS OF THE  
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**O R D E R**

The operations of the Minnesota Judicial Branch are currently governed by the order filed on June 28, 2021, which has been extended and modified in part by the order filed on July 30, 2021. *Order Governing the Continuing Operations of the Minnesota Judicial Branch*, No. ADM20-8001 (Minn. filed July 30, 2021) (modifying provisions of the June 28 order and extending that order indefinitely). Since the last operations order, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued, the positivity rate and positive case numbers in Minnesota have increased significantly, and the entire State of Minnesota is currently experiencing a high level of community transmission. Thus, some exposure prevention and mitigation measures must be reinstated to ensure the continued safe operations of the Minnesota Judicial Branch consistent with evolving conditions and public health guidance.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. Effective October 19, 2021, every person entering a court facility must wear a face covering at all times when in public areas served by the Judicial Branch or other common areas of the facility and in the courtroom during proceedings. The requirements of this paragraph apply to Judicial Branch staff and judges, attorneys, parties, witnesses, case participants including jurors, those who attend in-person hearings, and any person who enters a court facility to use public services provided by the Judicial Branch. The

presiding judge has the discretion to permit individuals to remove a face covering during an in-person proceeding for case-specific reasons. This paragraph supersedes the orders of June 28, 2021, and July 30, 2021, to the extent provisions in those orders are inconsistent with the terms of this paragraph.

2. Effective October 19, 2021, proceedings in the Judicial Branch should be conducted by implementing when possible the guidance provided by the Judicial Branch COVID-19 Preparedness Plan (revised as of October 18, 2021), as appropriate in light of the particular proceeding. It is the specific intent of this paragraph that Judicial Branch operations including in-person proceedings shall continue as currently scheduled, with the decision to implement the guidance provided by the Preparedness Plan to be made as appropriate for the proceeding and as the presiding judge is able to do so.

3. The order filed on June 28, 2021, and the order filed on July 30, 2021, both of which govern the continuing operations of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, remain in effect unless expressly superseded by the provisions of this order.

Dated: October 18, 2021

BY THE COURT:



Lorie S. Gildea  
Chief Justice