IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

IN RE: POLICY ON USE OF FACE COVERINGS AND COURTHOUSE ENTRY DUE TO COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2022-02

The Court has continued to monitor the local and national emergency occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have now advised that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear a face covering in public or indoor settings in areas where COVID-19 Community Levels are high. In accordance with the COVID-19 Community Levels model, which became effective on February 25, 2022.

- All persons in a federal courthouse in Nebraska, including fully vaccinated persons, must wear a face covering in public spaces in the courthouse when Community Levels are high based on the CDC's COVID-19 County Check.
- All persons who are <u>up-to-date</u> on COVID-19 vaccinations must wear a face covering in a federal courthouse in Nebraska in public spaces for 10 days following known or suspected exposure to COVID-19.
- 3. All persons who are NOT <u>up-to-date</u> on COVID-19 vaccinations must wait until their <u>quarantine period</u> ends before entering a federal courthouse in Nebraska following known or suspected exposure to COVID-19. In addition, they must wear a face covering in public spaces in a federal courthouse in Nebraska for 10 full days following known or suspected exposure to COVID-19, even if their quarantine period ends before the 10th day.
- 4. Nothing in this General Order shall prevent a presiding judge in a court

proceeding from directing or permitting the use or removal of face coverings by participants in that proceeding.

- 5. When Community Levels are "high," signage will be posted at courthouse entrances and in lobbies and common areas directing that face coverings must be worn by all persons accessing the buildings and all persons in public spaces of the buildings. Court Security Officers shall inform those entering the courthouse of this order and shall enforce it by excluding any person from the building who does not comply with its requirements. The Court Security Officers shall provide any person barred from entering a building with a list of telephone numbers for the agencies in the building.
- 6. If any person cannot comply with the requirement to wear a face covering because of a medical condition or for some other reasons, an exemption or accommodation may be considered, and if appropriate, authorized by the Court or by a responsible official of a tenant agency with whom the person has business. The Court or that official may, if necessary, inquire into the basis of the requested exemption or accommodation.
- 7. This order rescinds General Order Number 2021-07.

Dated this 4th day of March 2022.

BY THE COURT:

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Robert F. Rossiter, Jr. Chief United States District Judge