

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. 2022-07

The Court has continued to monitor the local and national conditions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have made a number of recommendations including 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, and other CDC guidance, and in order to maintain, to the extent possible, a safe environment for the public, for litigants, attorneys, court staff, and others within courthouse buildings in Nebraska:

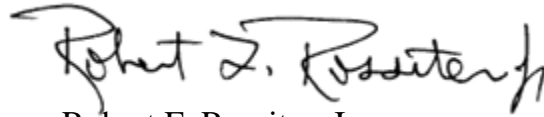
1. All persons in a federal courthouse in Nebraska, including vaccinated persons, shall wear a face covering in public spaces in the courthouse when Community Levels are “high” based on the CDC’s COVID-19 County Check.
2. When Community Levels are “high,” signage will be posted at courthouse entrances and in lobbies and common areas directing that face coverings shall 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, and shall provide any excluded person with a list of telephone numbers for the agencies in the building.

3. The following apply even when Community Levels are not “high”:
 - a. All persons who test positive for COVID-19 or persons who have symptoms they believe are attributable to COVID-19 shall wait until their isolation period ends before entering a federal courthouse in Nebraska. In addition, such persons shall wear a face covering in public spaces in a federal courthouse in Nebraska for 10 full days after such positive test.
 - b. All persons who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and have had close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 shall wear a face covering in public spaces in a federal courthouse in Nebraska for 5 full days following such contact.
 - c. All persons who are NOT up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations and have had close contact with someone known to have COVID-19 shall wait until their quarantine period ends before entering a federal courthouse in Nebraska following such contact. In addition, such persons shall wear a face covering in public spaces in a federal courthouse in Nebraska for 10 days following close contact with someone known to have COVID-19.
4. 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.
5. Nothing in this General Order prevents a presiding judge in a court proceeding from directing or permitting the use or removal of face coverings by participants in that proceeding.

6. This order rescinds General Order Number 2022-02.

Dated this 28th day of June 2022.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Rossiter, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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