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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**July 6, 2020**

## **PRESIDING JUDGE KEVIN C. BRAZILE UPDATES GENERAL ORDER ON MANDATORY USE OF FACIAL COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN ALL LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSES AND COURTROOMS**

Presiding Judge Kevin C. Brazile today signed an updated General Order mandating facial coverings and social distancing requirements in all 38 Superior Court of Los Angeles County courthouses and courtrooms. Under the Order, all persons entering any courthouse or courtroom must wear a face covering/mask over his or her nose and mouth at all times within the public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Individuals who wear a face shield must ensure it covers both the nose and the mouth, wraps around the sides of a wearer's face and extend to below the chin with a cloth drape from the bottom of the face shield to below the neck.

"The more we learn about COVID-19 and measures to slow its spread, it is imperative to follow the evolving local, state and federal public health protocols," Presiding Judge Brazile said. "Face shields should not be used in place of a mask or cloth face covering according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the absence of data that face shields alone provide adequate protection from respiratory droplets, I am amending my June 5 General Order on face coverings to specify face shield requirements, including the use of a cloth drape."

Children under the age of three (3) are exempt from the Order.

Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them from wearing a face covering are exempt from today's Order. However, they must "take whatever protective measures their condition permits, such as wearing a face shield without a drape on the bottom edge," according to the Order.

**-MORE-**

## **GENERAL ORDER 2-2-2-2**

Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this Order as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Rule 1.100 of the California Rules of Court should contact the ADA liaison at each courthouse. A list of liaisons is available at [www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx](http://www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx).

Under the Order:

- To reduce the risk of contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a mask may be scheduled when fewer people are present.
- Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a mask or face covering will be denied entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- Individuals who remove their masks or face coverings after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.
- Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or courtroom by Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department personnel.
- Individuals are required to maintain at least (6) six feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within their household) at all times, and comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.
- Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand-washing hygiene, and cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

The Order, which is attached, is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

Judicial officers and employees also are required to wear masks or facial coverings in all courthouses, courtrooms and public spaces unless they have a medical exemption. The Court has provided judicial officers and employees with two cloth face coverings for their use.

The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it serves. For more information on the Court's *Here For You | Safe For You* initiative, visit the Court's home page ([www.lacourt.org](http://www.lacourt.org)) and follow us on Twitter (@[LASuperiorCourt](https://twitter.com/LASuperiorCourt)).

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JUL 06 2020

Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk  
By Rizalinda Mina, Deputy  
Rizalinda Mina

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE RE MANDATORY  
FACIAL COVERINGS AND SOCIAL  
DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN  
EFFECT DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

GENERAL ORDER

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, national, state and local elected officials declared states of emergency within their respective jurisdictions. Executive orders and orders from public health authorities required individuals to remain in their homes (Safe-at-Home Orders) to slow and reduce the transmission of this novel coronavirus.

On March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) declared a local and public health emergency in response to the increased spread of the novel coronavirus across the County of Los Angeles.

On Friday, March 13, 2020, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency over the novel coronavirus outbreak.

On March 19, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom and City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti both issued, respectively, Stay at Home and Safer at Home orders.

On March 21, 2020, Public Health issued a revised Safer at Home Order for the Control of Covid-19 that prohibits all indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings and events. The order also requires businesses, except those defined as an Essential Business, to cease in-person operations and close to the public. The order requires individuals to maintain a physical separation from others of at least six (6) feet and advises persons 65 years of age and over and persons with underlying health conditions to avoid person-to-person contact.

1 On May 29, 2020, Public Health issued a revised order regarding Reopening Safer at Work  
2 and in the Community for Control of Covid-19. Among other things, it provides, “People leaving  
3 their residences must strictly comply with the Social (Physical) Distancing requirements stated in  
4 this Order and specified in guidance or protocols established by the County Department of Public  
5 Health; this includes wearing a cloth face covering whenever there is or can be contact with others  
6 who are non-household members in both public and private places, which reduces the risk of  
7 transmission to others from people who do not have symptoms. The use of face coverings is  
8 commonly referred to as “source control.”” County of Los Angeles Public Health Department Order  
9 of the Health Officer, May 29, 2020, p. 2, paragraph 3b.

10 The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it  
11 serves. In the absence of a cure, treatment, or effective vaccine for the highly contagious novel  
12 coronavirus, social distancing, face coverings and good hygiene are the only tools available to slow  
13 or prevent its spread. The Court has taken extensive measures to reduce the number of persons  
14 coming to its courthouses, including limiting the matters to be heard on any given day, spreading the  
15 scheduling of cases, directing prospective jurors to courtrooms instead of jury assembly rooms,  
16 facilitating remote telephonic/video court transactions with the virtual Clerk’s Office, online and  
17 remote Self-Help services, remote mediations, teleworking employees, encouraging counsel and  
18 litigants to appear remotely, and implementing scheduled appointments for in-person transactions at  
19 the courthouse.

20 To prevent or slow the spread of Covid-19 and to protect the health of court users, pursuant  
21 to Code Civ. Proc. § 128; Gov. Code § 68070, Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.603, and the inherent  
22 powers of the Court (*In re Reno* (2012) 65 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 428, 522), and in compliance with state and local  
23 public health guidelines, **THIS COURT HEREBY FINDS, AND ORDERS<sup>1</sup> AS FOLLOWS:**

- 24 1. All persons entering any courthouse or courtroom shall wear a face covering/mask over his or  
25 her nose and mouth at all times within public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face  
26 coverings may include a mask, scarf, or any other fabric that covers both the mouth and nose.  
27 Individuals who elect to wear face shields must ensure that the shield covers both the nose and  
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<sup>1</sup> This order supersedes and replaces the Court’s June 5, 2020 order on face coverings.

1 mouth. The face shield must wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend to below  
 2 the chin with a cloth drape from the bottom of the face shield to below the neck. Children  
 3 under the age of three (3) are exempt from the order.

- 4 2. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that precludes them  
 5 from wearing a face covering are exempt from this order. Nevertheless, they must take  
 6 whatever protective measures their condition permits, such as wearing a face shield without a  
 7 drape on the bottom edge. Individuals with disabilities who seek an exemption from this order  
 8 as a reasonable accommodation pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act or Rule 1.100  
 9 of the California Rules of Court, should contact the ADA liaison at the courthouse. A list of  
 10 ADA liaisons is available at [www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx](http://www.lacourt.org/ada/adahome.aspx). To reduce the risk of  
 11 contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a mask may be scheduled when  
 12 fewer people are present.
- 13 3. Non-exempt individuals who decline or refuse to wear a mask or face covering will be denied  
 14 entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- 15 4. Individuals who remove their masks or face covering after entering the courthouse or  
 16 courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse, they may be denied services, may  
 17 have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom  
 18 immediately. Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse  
 19 and/or courtroom by Los Angeles Sheriff Department's personnel.
- 20 5. Maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within your  
 21 household) at all times. Comply with social distance signage throughout the courthouse.
- 22 6. Use hand sanitizer when entering the courthouse, practice good hand washing hygiene, and  
 23 cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue.

24 **THIS ORDER IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, AND REPLACES AND**  
 25 **SUPERSEDES THE JUNE 5, 2020 FACE COVERING ORDER, AND WILL REMAIN**  
 26 **IN EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

27 Dated: July 6, 2020



28 *Kevin C. Brazile*  
 KEVIN C. BRAZILE  
 Presiding Judge