

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
REGARDING FACE COVERINGS AND COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

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**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2021, based on new evidence of spread of the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant of COVID-19 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) updated mask recommendations for indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission of COVID-19;

**WHEREAS**, on July 30, 2021, in response to the new recommendations Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Lori Gildea modified order ADM20-8001 to provide that presiding judges, in consultation with the chief judge of the district, may require parties, participants, and those who attend an in-person proceeding to wear a face covering during the proceeding,

**WHEREAS**, Ramsey County and all counties in the metro-area have been identified by the CDC as areas of substantial transmission due to an increase in positive Covid-19 (Delta) tests resulting in large part from low vaccination rates;

**WHEREAS**, on August 3, 2021, Ramsey County Commissioners issued a mandate requiring all visitors and employees to wear face coverings in all indoor buildings and facilities, including courthouses, operated by Ramsey County regardless of whether they are vaccinated or not; and

**WHEREAS**, the fairness of court proceedings and the health, safety, and well-being of court staff, judges, justice partners, and those exercising their rights and duties as it relates to those proceedings in Ramsey County is the responsibility of the Court.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. Face coverings shall be worn by all persons in the common spaces and courtrooms of all five of the Ramsey County courthouse properties until further order of the court.
2. Presiding judicial officers, in their discretion, may allow for temporary removal of face coverings. For example, the temporary removal during witness testimony and juror responses to questioning during voir dire may be appropriate.
3. Face coverings are not required while court administration staff employees are seated at their workspace area outside of the courtroom. When an employee is not seated at their workspace, face coverings are required.

4. Face coverings in chambers will be at the discretion of the judicial officer.
5. This Order supersedes any previous order issued by this court regarding the use of face coverings in Ramsey County courthouses.

Dated: August 4, 2021

**BY THE COURT:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonardo Castro', written in a cursive style.

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Leonardo Castro  
Chief Judge  
Second Judicial District