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**ORDER REQUIRING FACE COVERINGS DUE TO HIGH COVID-19  
COMMUNITY LEVEL**

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On March 3, 2022, Chief Justice Gildea issued an Order lifting the statewide requirement to wear face coverings in court facilities. The Order cites new guidance from the CDC as to what prevention steps should be taken based on a county's COVID-19 Community Level. According to the new guidance, wearing a mask indoors in public is recommended only for counties that have a "high" COVID-19 Community Level.

Chief Justice Gildea's Order grants the chief judge of each judicial district authority to require face coverings at court facilities in districts or counties that have a "high" COVID-19 Community Level.

The health, safety and well-being of those exercising their rights and duties in Court proceedings in the Sixth Judicial District is the responsibility of the Court and the Court's highest priority.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. When a county in the Sixth Judicial District has a "high" COVID-19 Community Level ([CDC COVID Data Tracker: Home](#)), approved face coverings (masks and/or face shields) shall be worn by all persons in courtrooms, juror orientation and deliberation rooms, and public spaces immediately adjacent to court facilities, for all in-person proceedings in that county.
2. The presiding judge in any in-person proceeding retains discretion to allow any person testifying in court to remove the face covering while testifying.
3. This Court will continue to monitor CDC COVID-19 Community Levels for each county in the Sixth Judicial District on a weekly basis.
4. This Order supersedes all prior face covering orders issued by the undersigned.

**BY THE COURT:**

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Michael J. Cuzzo  
Chief Judge of the Sixth Judicial District