

03/14/2022

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

JULIA C. DUDLEY, CLERK  
BY: A. Seagle  
DEPUTY CLERK

**IN RE:** )  
**POLICY ON MASK WEARING** )  
**AND COURTHOUSE ENTRY** )  
**DUE TO COVID-19** )

**STANDING ORDER 2022-8**

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 CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels model, which became effective on February 25, 2022, Standing Order 2021-11 is **AMENDED**, in part, as follows:

1. All persons in a federal courthouse in the Western District of Virginia, including fully vaccinated persons, must wear a face covering in public spaces in the courthouse when Community Levels are **HIGH** in the city or county where the courthouse is located based on the CDC's COVID-19 County Check tool located on the CDC website.
2. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to check the COVID-19 County Check tool located on the CDC website daily and communicate with the Court Security Officers, Clerk's Office, Probation office, and judge's chambers in each divisional courthouse as to COVID-

19 Community Level in the city or county where the courthouse is located.

3. When the CDC COVID-19 County Check tool on the CDC website indicates that the Community Level in the city or county where the courthouse is located is **HIGH**, the Clerk and Court Security Officers are **DIRECTED** to coordinate with the General Services Administration to post signage at the entrance to the courthouse indicating that Community Levels are **HIGH** and that masks are required in all public spaces in the courthouse. 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.
4. If the CDC COVID-19 County Check indicates that the Community Level is below the **HIGH** level for the city or county where the courthouse is located, the mask requirement in public spaces, internal Clerk's Office space, and internal Probation Office space is lifted.
5. Mask wearing during court proceedings and in judge's chambers in courthouses shall be at the discretion of the presiding judge.

It is so **ORDERED**.

Entered: March 14, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Urbanski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael F. Urbanski  
Chief U.S. District Judge  
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Michael F. Urbanski  
Chief United States District Judge