

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON

IN THE MATTER OF ORDERING THE USE)
OF PROTECTIVE FACE COVERINGS) ORDER 20-006
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC)

IT APPEARING TO THE COURT that Chief Justice Order 20-016, dated May 15, 2020, encourages all courts in the State of Oregon to implement robust measures to protect the health of all persons who do or are required to enter a court premises during the COVID-19 emergency, including provisions under Paragraph 10 of said Order for all trials, proceedings, hearings, and for any other court services taking place at the courthouse or otherwise provided at the courthouse; and, that said Order grants authority to the Presiding Judge to determine the mode of proceedings;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT, effective immediately:

1. Definitions

- a. "Court Premises" means all portions of the Benton County Courthouse under the control and supervision of the Court, comprising the entirety of the first-floor with the exception of the foyer, the entirety of the second-floor, as well as the western portion of the third floor; and, any alternative physical location designated and used by the court.
 - b. "Protective Face Covering" means a covering of the nose and mouth of an individual designed to protect against the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus, in conformance with guidance published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as may be periodically updated. The Trial Court Administrator shall make determination as to the suitability of all protective face coverings.
2. All persons entering court premises, except for witnesses while testifying in a proceeding, children under the age of two years, or other persons granted an exception or accommodation under paragraphs 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this order, are required to wear a protective face covering.
 3. A trial judge may decline to wear a protective face covering for any portion of a trial or proceeding.
 4. A trial judge may authorize any person participating in a trial or proceeding over which that judge presides to temporarily remove a protective face covering.
 5. Court employees working in an area of the court premises where at least a 6-foot social distancing separation may be maintained are authorized to remove a protective face covering while working in the area and under the conditions described. All court employees are required to otherwise use a protective face covering.
 6. Any person seeking to enter the court premises without use of a protective face covering due to a medical condition, or otherwise for good cause shown, may submit a written request for an exemption for relief from the requirement to wear a protective face covering. Persons seeking an exemption under this paragraph must submit a written request to the Trial Court Administrator at least two judicial days prior to the date of desired entry under

exemption. Written requests must include an explanation of the conditions contributive to forming a basis for approving the exemption request. Requests may be emailed to benton.room104@ojd.state.or.us or may be deposited in a secure drop box located in the first-floor foyer of the courthouse. Requests for exemption shall be ruled upon by the Presiding Judge within one judicial day of the court's receipt.

7. The court will provide protective face coverings and information about the proper application and use for protective face coverings, subject to the availability of protective face coverings.
8. This order remains in effect until revised, modified, or rescinded by further order of the court.

DATED this 10th day of July, 2020.



Locke A. Williams, Presiding Judge
21st Judicial District