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2 On December 22, 2021 Chief Justice Walters issued Chief Justice Order 21-058
3 (Superseding CJO 21-050), Extending Presiding Judge Authority to Impose Social Distancing
4 Requirement.

5 At the time of the Chief Justice Order, the COVID-19 Omicron variant had spread at a
6 rapid rate internationally and in the United States, and it had been detected in Oregon. At the
7 time, the Oregon Judicial Department has achieved a full vaccination rate for judges and staff
8 that had exceeded 94 percent. Since that time, the Omicron variant has been spreading
9 throughout Oregon including Washington County.
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11 Recently, the court has been notified of people being infected with COVID-19 who were
12 present in our court facilities. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Oregon Health
13 Authority recommend that people experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 or who
14 have tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home and avoid contact with others. The court
15 has consistently recommended that anyone with symptoms or a positive test for COVID-19
16 refrain from entering court facilities.
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18 The court continues to encourage remote appearances by telephone or video for hearings
19 where personal appearances are not required.

20 Currently, the COVID-19 Omicron variant is widespread in Washington County. During
21 the present widespread occurrence of this virus variant, the court has considered additional
22 measures to help prevent the spread of infection while still conducting the necessary business of
23 the courts.

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This Order adopts and relies on the Chief Justice Orders 21-030 and 21-058 and considers and relies on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Oregon Health Authority guidance.

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This Order supplements Presiding Judge Order No. 315CV.

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Court staff routinely receives requests from persons using court facilities for exemptions from mask wearing or requests for approval to use various cloth face coverings. According to public health authorities the court relies on, the effectiveness of cloth masks to prevent illness and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 varies greatly depending on the type of fabric, the number of layers and how well the mask fits. The courts cannot evaluate the quality of various cloth masks that are worn in the courts. Further, the CDC does not recommend masks that are loose, made from knitted fabric, masks with vents or scarves.

7.

3 or 4-ply paper surgical-style masks, KN95 masks and N95 masks are more effective than cloth masks at protecting individuals from the COVID-19 Omicron variant. Therefore, in response to the current increase in COVID-19 Omicron variant spread in Washington County, the court has acquired a large supply of 3-ply paper surgical-style masks and KN95 masks to support the health and safety of judges, staff, jurors and other persons entering court facilities.

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Washington County Circuit Court judges, staff and jurors are strongly encouraged to wear 3 or 4-ply paper surgical-style masks, KN95 masks or N95 masks rather than cloth masks

1 at this time.

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3 It is HEREBY ORDERED:

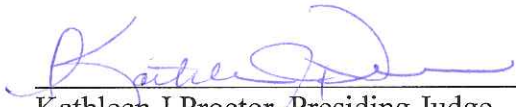
4 1.

5 Washington County Circuit Court administration shall make 3-ply paper surgical-style
6 masks and KN95 masks available to judges, staff and jurors.

7 2.

8 Washington County Circuit Court administration shall also supply court entrance security
9 screening station officers with 3-ply paper surgical-style masks and KN95 masks to provide
10 upon request to persons entering Washington County Circuit Court facilities.
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13 Dated this 14th day of January 2022

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16 Kathleen J Proctor, Presiding Judge