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CLERK OF COURTS

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO,  
AND THE EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

FILED  
2022 MAR -1 P 3:14  
CLERK OF COURTS  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

In Re:

ORDER REGARDING MASK WEARING  
FOR STAFF AND PUBLIC

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JOURNAL ENTRY

The Judges of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas make the following findings of fact:

WHEREAS, on this 1 day of March 2022, supporting the health and welfare of the residents of Cuyahoga County through mitigation efforts to slow the spread of illness due to the infectious respiratory disease identified as the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) remain a priority to the Courts; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) recommend vaccination, masking, social distancing and testing to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the Court is committed to ensuring safe workspaces for its staff and the public served by the Court's departments and agencies; and,

WHEREAS, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Court efficiency has been adversely impacted by the illness, isolation, and quarantine requirements of Court staff and those with whom they are in close contact; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Ohio has regularly relayed the importance of subordinate Ohio courts taking affirmative measures to ensure the safety of parties, witnesses, counsel, staff, and members of the public by taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (*see, e.g.*, Guidance of May 7, 2020; Guidance of December 10, 2020; *St. Vincent Charity v. Paluscsak*, 2021-Ohio-1203 (April 16, 2021)(concurrency); *In re: Disqualification of Fleegle*, 161 Ohio St.3d 1263, 2020-Ohio-5636, ¶ 8 (Dec. 10, 2020)); and

WHEREAS, on Friday, February 25, 2022, the CDC issued new guidance regarding when to wear a mask; and,

WHEREAS, while COVID-19 progresses from a pandemic to an endemic disease, it is appropriate to update Court policies.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Court buildings; to maintain the efficiency and uninterrupted provision of Court services; and to protect the health of staff and visitors, the Courts will adopt the mask guidance issued by the CDC on February 25, 2022.
2. Using the COVID-19 County Check on the CDC website, the Court will implement the following mask requirement for all staff and public who enter Court facilities:
  - a. When Cuyahoga County is at a “High” level all staff and public must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.
  - b. When Cuyahoga County is at a “Medium” level, staff and public may choose, but are not required, to wear a mask if they are at a higher risk for severe illness or caring for someone who is at a higher risk for severe illness.
  - c. When Cuyahoga County is at a “Low” level, staff and public may choose, but are not required, to wear a mask based on personal preference.
  - d. Any person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or who has tested positive for COVID-19 must wear a mask for 10 days following the date of exposure or positive COVID-19 test.
  - e. Any person who is unvaccinated is strongly encouraged to wear a mask at all times while in a Court facility.
3. At any time when a mask is worn it must be well-fitting and cover both the nose and mouth.
4. Nothing in this order impacts the ability of any person to wear a mask based on personal preference. Rather, this order covers those times that staff and public must wear a mask while in a Court facility.
5. The CDC County Check will be monitored on a weekly basis by the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, General Division. Based on the risk level in Cuyahoga County, the mask policy will be updated as necessary.
6. Those persons entering Court facilities without a mask will be provided one if Cuyahoga County is at a “High” level and masks are required.
7. This Order shall be provided to the Supreme Court of Ohio, Ohio Judicial Conference, Municipal Courts in Cuyahoga County, Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts, Cuyahoga County Adult Probation Department, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, Cuyahoga County Public Defender’s Office, Cuyahoga

County Sheriff, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Cuyahoga County Executive,  
Cuyahoga County Council, the website of this Court, and distributed to the media.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

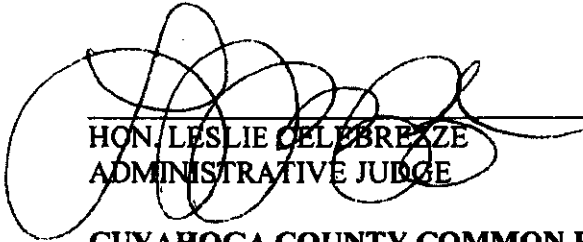
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, GENERAL DIVISION**



HON. BRENDAN J. SHEEHAN  
ADMINISTRATIVE & PRESIDING JUDGE

3.1.22  
DATED

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT**



HON. LESLIE CELEBREZZE  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

3.1.22  
DATED

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, JUVENILE COURT**



HON. THOMAS O'MALLEY  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

3-1-22  
DATED

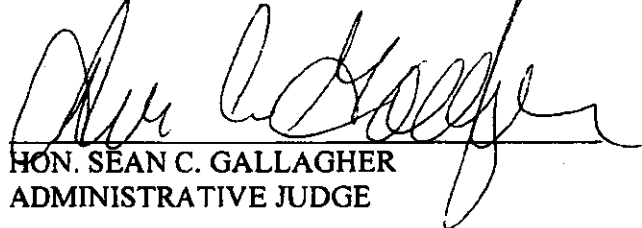
**CUYAHOGA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, PROBATE COURT**



HON. ANTHONY J. RUSSO  
ADMINISTRATIVE & PRESIDING JUDGE

3/1/22  
DATED

**EIGHTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS**



HON. SEAN C. GALLAGHER  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

3.1.2022  
DATED

**FILED WITH THE CLERK OF COURTS AND**

**JOURNALIZED ON**

3.8.22

**BY**



**DEPUTY CLERK**

*Volume 142 Page 380*