



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE
18th Judicial Circuit Court - DuPage County, Illinois

KENNETH L. POPEJOY
Chief Judge

SUZANNE H. ARMSTRONG
Court Administrator

August 2, 2021

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Office of the Chief Judge
505 North County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT REQUIRES MASKS REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS

Chief Judge Kenneth L. Popejoy entered an Administrative Order effective August 3, 2021 which requires all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks in all public indoor spaces in the courthouse and annex. These updated guidelines have been made with the counsel and encouragement of our local county officials, including the Circuit Court Clerk, State's Attorney and Public Defender.

"We have worked closely with the DuPage County Health Department to ensure that we have safeguards in place to protect the health and safety of everyone in the courthouse." said Popejoy. "The recent change in the level of community transmission of COVID-19 in DuPage County, along with the CDC guidance on masks in indoor public places necessitated this change. We will continue to closely monitor the circumstances and make changes as needed to mitigate the risk of transmission."

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
 COUNTY OF DU PAGE)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 18TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 DU PAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS)
 UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED) Administrative Order 21-18
 BY THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19))

WHEREAS, due to the frequently changing circumstances involved with the COVID-19 pandemic, measures must continue to be implemented and updated to both protect the health and safety of all those working inside the courthouse and the public, and to ensure the fair and efficient access to justice; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated Public Health Recommendations for information for fully vaccinated people due to new evidence on the Delta variant currently circulating in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the DuPage County Health Department currently recommend that all individuals, **regardless of vaccination status** (*emphasis added*), wear masks in public indoor settings if they are in an area of substantial or high level of community transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, DuPage County is currently experiencing a substantial or high level of community transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Supreme Court rescinded and reserved subpart F of its March 17, 2020 Order and adopted M.R. 30370, effective August 27, 2020 and further amended subpart F of the Order on May 27, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT effective August 2, 2021, all persons able to medically tolerate a mask or face covering shall be required to wear a mask or face covering when located within the indoor public spaces of the DuPage County Courthouse and Annex, except those under the age of 2 or who are incapacitated, having trouble breathing, or are otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance. All persons inside a courtroom, including courtroom personnel shall wear a mask or face covering unless they meet one of the above exceptions. A mask or face covering must completely cover a person's nose and mouth. A judge retains the authority and discretion to allow any person inside a courtroom to remove a mask or face covering when necessary for the fair and effective administration of justice. A face shield should not be used as a substitute for a mask or face covering unless medically necessary.

justice. A face shield should not be used as a substitute for a mask or face covering unless medically necessary.

All persons entering the public spaces of the courthouse are expected to have their own mask or face covering. Courthouse security personnel will have a limited supply of masks which will be provided to individuals who do not have them.

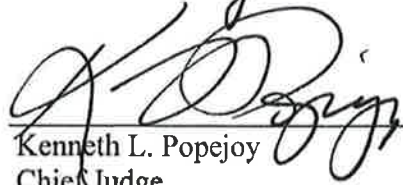
Employees who are working in or passing through the public spaces of the DuPage County Courthouse and Annex must wear a mask or face covering at all times. Public spaces do not include the secure hallways and open workspace areas behind secured doorways.

Individuals, including judges, court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors and witnesses should not enter the courthouse if they:

- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or the COVID-19 Delta variant and are therefore currently subject to quarantine or isolation protocols; or
- Have new flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath (excluding such symptoms caused by chronic conditions); or
- Currently have been directed to quarantine or isolate at home by any medical provider or public health official; or
- Reside or have regular close contact with a person currently subject to a quarantine or isolation direction issued by a medical provider or public health official.

This Administrative Order is effective August 3, 2021, and remains in effect until further order of the Court. Administrative Order 20-19 as amended is hereby vacated. The Court will continue to review and adjust the Order as necessary.

ENTER: August 2, 2021


Kenneth L. Popejoy
Chief Judge