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REBECCA PADILLA  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

2021 JUL 22 PM 3:57

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL

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DEPUTY

IN THE MATTER OF PHYSICAL ACCESS )  
TO COURT FACILITIES DUE TO A PUBLIC )  
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND )  
TRANSITION TO RESUMPTION OF )  
OPERATIONS )

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 2021 - 00047

Due to concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona issued numerous Administrative Orders over the last 16 months to address measures to be taken by the Judicial Branch to conduct business in a manner that reduces the risk associated with this public health emergency. The Orders directed the presiding superior court judge of each county to determine how in-person proceedings were to be conducted in each of the county's courtrooms under conditions that protect the health and safety of participants and the public.

The Supreme Court has now issued Administrative Order No. 2021-109 which moves Arizona courts into phase III of the "Standards for Resumption of On-Site Court Operations During a Public Health Emergency." This administrative order gives the local presiding judge further authority to determine safety protocols for the courts in their county.

Over the course of the public health emergency, the Judicial Branch in Pinal County has issued several Administrative Orders to adjust court operations to match the risk posed by COVID-19 within Pinal County at any given time. Based on direction from the Arizona Supreme Court, health metrics and guidance from the CDC, it is appropriate to continue implementing changes in court practices to transition to normal operations.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED** that effective July 26, 2021, all persons entering superior court facilities in Pinal County shall wear a mask or face covering when they are in a posted Mask Mandated Area. All persons entering a court facility who are fully vaccinated (14 days from final vaccination) have the option of wearing a mask or face covering in any area of a court facility that is not a posted Mask Mandated Area. Social distancing guidelines, as recommended by the CDC and local health authorities, will continue to be followed. The Court recommends that all unvaccinated persons who enter a court facility wear a mask or face covering within any area of a court facility. Any person who refuses to wear a mask or face covering as directed by court personnel will be denied entrance or removed from the facility.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that teleconferencing or video conferencing continue to be utilized when appropriate and that limited in-person court proceedings resume at the direction of the Presiding Judge.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Judicial Branch employees and judicial officers who are fully vaccinated (14 days from final vaccination) have the option of wearing a mask or face covering in any area of a court facility that is not a posted Mask Mandated Area. The Court recommends that all unvaccinated employees and judicial officers wear a mask or face covering within any area of a court facility unless they are at their workspace and more than six feet away from any other person.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Mask Mandated Areas shall include, but are not limited to, courtrooms, jury assembly areas, law library, clerk lobbies or filing counters, probation office lobbies, conciliation services lobby and juvenile detention facilities.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that any person entering a courthouse in Pinal County is subject to a health screening protocol established by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Any person who does not pass the health screening protocol shall be denied entrance into the facility.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that during in-courtroom proceedings, the judicial officer may authorize the removal of masks or face coverings for any reason deemed necessary by the judicial officer provided that appropriate social distancing or other protective measures are followed.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, during any jury trial, the judicial officer may relax social distancing requirements for fully vaccinated jurors for good cause, provided that the resulting social distancing conforms to guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control, and provided that the privacy of jurors is protected and that appropriate social distancing is preserved for jurors who are immunocompromised or not fully vaccinated.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** all limited jurisdiction courts located in Pinal County shall implement this order on or before July 26, 2021.

Dated this 22 day of July, 2021



Honorable Joseph R. Georgine,  
Presiding Judge

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph R. Georgine', written over the printed name.

Original: Filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Rebecca Padilla, Clerk of the Court  
All Superior Court Judges, Pinal County  
Kent Volkmer, Pinal County Attorney  
Kate Miliewski, Public Defender  
Cathryn Whalen, Indigent Defense Services  
Todd. D. Zweig, Court Administrator  
Rod Mckone, Chief Probation Officer  
Tracy McElroy, Conciliation Services Director  
Denise Smith, Juvenile Court Services Director