

<p><b>EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT: ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT and LINCOLN COUNTIES, COLORADO</b></p> <p>Arapahoe County Justice Center 7325 South Potomac Street Centennial, Colorado 80112</p> <p>Arapahoe County Courthouse 1790 West Littleton Boulevard Littleton, Colorado 80120</p> <p>Douglas County Justice Center 4000 Justice Way #2009 Castle Rock, Colorado 80109</p> <p>Elbert County Courthouse PO Box 232, 751 Ute Street Kiowa, Colorado 80117</p> <p>Lincoln County Courthouse PO Box 128, 103 Third Avenue Hugo, Colorado 80821</p>	<p align="center">• COURT USE ONLY •</p> <p align="center"><b>Chief Judge Order 21-04 August 2, 2021 Effective August 3, 2021</b></p> <hr/> <p align="center"><b>Division 201</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>CHIEF JUDGE ORDER 21-04 REGARDING FACIAL COVERINGS IN THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT</b></p>	

Since the Novel Coronavirus (“COVID- 19”) was first detected in Colorado in March 2020, the undersigned has issued numerous orders regarding courthouse operations, including jury trials, designed to balance public health and safety with the commitment to protect constitutional and statutory rights and to ensure equal access to justice for those we serve. These orders have consistently followed existing national, state, and local public health orders and/or guidance, as well as orders issued by the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court.

On June 15, 2021, Chief Justice Boatright issued an Updated Order Regarding Safety in Colorado Courthouses (“Chief Justice’s Updated Safety Order”), wherein the Chief Justice delegated to the Chief Judges to determine mask and social

distancing requirements in courthouses and probation offices in their respective judicial districts. Chief Judges are directed to make decisions in consultation with local public health officials, when possible, and to consider local circumstances, including vaccination rates, COVID positivity rates/metrics, and courthouse layout. Chief Judges must prioritize safety for the public and staff in making these decisions and must strive to ensure that individuals interacting with the court system feel safe.

On July 6, 2021, after consultation with local public health officials, the Eighteenth Judicial District returned to normal operations, no longer requiring social distancing or capacity limitations, while at the same time, directing that those who are sick not enter the courthouses or probation offices and strongly encouraging those who are unvaccinated or not yet fully vaccinated to wear a face covering.

On July 27, 2021, the Center for Disease Control (“CDC”) issued new guidance based on increasing concern related to the potential spread and impact of the B.1.671.2 (“Delta”) variant. This guidance recommends that both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals wear face coverings in public indoor settings in areas identified as having “substantial” or “high” community transmission. Based on current data from the CDC, Arapahoe, Douglas, and Lincoln Counties are currently all in the “substantial” zone of community transmission, and Elbert County is in the “high” zone of community transmission.

On July 30, 2021, the Tri-County Health Department (“TCHD”) endorsed the face covering guidance from the CDC. Given surges in the highly spreadable Delta variant across the Metro Denver area and vaccination rates increasing slowly, the TCHD has recommended that everyone, including fully vaccinated persons, wear a face covering in public indoor settings. Wearing face coverings in indoor settings is an evidence-based, safe and effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Wearing face coverings during times of rising community transmission provides added protection to the individual wearing the face covering given vaccines are not 100% effective and they can reduce transmission to others, particularly those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19.

The Eighteenth Judicial District is the largest judicial district in the State of Colorado, serving over one million people. We must ensure we continue to afford access to justice and incorporate precautionary measures as deemed necessary to

protect the health and safety of everyone accessing or working within the system of justice.

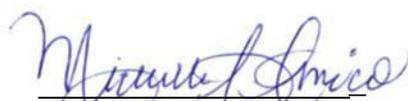
Pursuant to the authority granted in Chief Justice Directive 95-01 and the directives found in the Chief Justice's Updated Safety Order, and in accordance with CDC guidelines and recommendations from local public health officials, it is hereby **ORDERED** that **ALL PERSONS MUST WEAR FACE COVERINGS IN THE PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC AREAS OF THE COURTHOUSES AND PROBATION OFFICES IN THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**. Exceptions to the face covering requirements are consistent with those outlined in the Fifth Amended Public Health Order 20-38 Limited COVID-19 Restrictions issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on July 30, 2021.

Judicial officers may exercise their discretion to determine whether and under what circumstances a face covering may be removed by a participant on a case-by-case basis for all in-person court proceedings, including jury trials.

This Chief Judge Order 21-04 controls face coverings in the Eighteenth Judicial District and supersedes Sections (1) and (4) of Chief Judge Order 21-02 Regarding Court Operations in the Eighteenth Judicial District Under the Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") Advisory. The Chief Judge will continue to monitor available information and recommendations from national, state, and local public health organizations and officials, and this CJO 21-04 may be revised as deemed necessary.

Dated: August 2, 2021 to be effective August 3, 2021.

**BY THE COURT:**



Michelle A. Amico

Chief Judge

Eighteenth Judicial District