



OREGON SUPREME COURT

July 29, 2021
(SENT BY EMAIL)

Members of the Oregon State Bar

RE: Protective Face Coverings – Updated Requirements

Dear Bar Members:

In light of the increased the risk of transmission of COVID-19 posed by the Delta variant, and after considering updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and recommendations from the Oregon Health Authority, I have issued a new Chief Justice Order, [CJO 21-028](#), which will take effect on Monday, August 2. The new order would reinstate requirements that were in effect in our courts in late May and June of this year, as follows:

- Protective face coverings are required for everyone entering or working in a court facility, unless an exception applies.
- An exception is available for judges and staff, if approved by their administrative authority after showing proof of fully vaccinated status. That exception does not apply in public areas of a court facility unless the Presiding Judge has designated an area as one in which protective face coverings are not required for fully vaccinated judges and staff.
- A judge presiding in an in-person proceeding may grant an exception for participants in the proceeding, upon proof of fully vaccinated status. That judge also may opt to require all participants, including the judge and staff, to wear protective face coverings during the proceeding, and a judge must also require everyone to wear a face covering on the request of a participant. The Presiding Judge also has some authority to grant exceptions for participants, again on proof of fully vaccinated status.
- A Presiding Judge may issue a Presiding Judge Order that is more restrictive than the provisions of CJO 21-028, regarding the required use of protective face coverings.

The Oregon Judicial Department has a COVID-19 webpage, available here:
<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>.

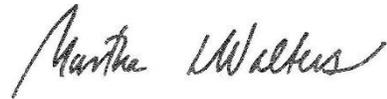
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CJO 21-028 represents a precautionary step in our continuing efforts to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. More protective measures may be taken in the future if circumstances require. As this journey has taught us, we must continue to work together to continue to serve the cause of justice while at the same time keeping ourselves and our communities safe and healthy.

I greatly appreciate our partnership with members of the Oregon State Bar and your continued flexibility as we navigate the pandemic. That collaboration has allowed us to keep courts open and provide justice services throughout the pandemic, even if at reduced levels. Taking this step now will help retain the progress we have made in restoring the court services that we needed to restrict at the height of the pandemic.

As always, please send questions or concerns to OJD.CJOFeedback@oid.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha Walters". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martha L. Walters
Chief Justice

MLW:jm/21eMLW026jm