

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

IN RE: USE OF FACE COVERINGS)
OR MASKS IN COURTHOUSES) CIV. MISC. NO. 2:20-mc-3910-ECM
DUE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19))

GENERAL ORDER

This General Order is being issued in response to the ongoing national emergency in response to the novel Coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities have advised public and private agencies to continue to take necessary and appropriate precautions to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and slow the spread of the disease, including the recommendation of wearing face coverings or masks (hereinafter “masks”) in public settings. Accordingly, in order to protect the public health and for good cause, it is

ORDERED that **all persons** over the age of two years, whether vaccinated or not, including but not limited to:

Court employees; visitors and parties to cases; jurors; witnesses; attorneys and their support staff including United States Attorneys, members of the Federal Defender’s Organization and members of the Criminal Justice Act Panel of Attorneys; United States Probation Officers; Court Security Officers; United States Marshals; all members of law enforcement, Bankruptcy Administration personnel, General Services Administration personnel including Goodwill employees; maintenance and repair personnel and contractors, cleaning services, vendors, and mail delivery service persons

1. Shall, effective immediately, wear a mask or face covering while in public or common spaces inside the Courthouse, unless having received specific exception by a

Court official, or unless being instructed to remove a mask by an Officer with the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, or Court Security.

2. The public or common areas of the Courthouse shall include the entrance areas, lobbies, balconies, public corridors, elevators, restrooms, stairwells, garages, courtrooms and any other areas of the Courthouse where the public generally has access.

3. The mask or face covering must completely cover the wearer's nose and mouth.

4. The presiding judge in any court proceeding may authorize the removal of a mask during the proceeding.

5. Courthouse employees who are alone in a private office or workspace which permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons, may remove their masks while in their private workspaces.

6. The United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, and Court Security Officers may deny entry to the Courthouse to persons not wearing a mask. Individuals who remove their masks in violation of this Order after gaining access to the Courthouse may be required to exit the building.

7. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

DONE this the 28th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Emily C. Marks
EMILY C. MARKS
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE