

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

IN RE:	:	
	:	
USE OF MASKS OR FACE	:	FIFTH AMENDED
COVERINGS IN PUBLIC AREAS OF	:	STANDING ORDER
THE JAMES A. BYRNE U.S.	:	
COURTHOUSE	:	

This Standing Order amends the April 22, 2022 Fourth Amended Standing Order regarding the use of masks or face coverings in common or public areas of the James A. Byrne U.S. Courthouse in Philadelphia. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that masks be worn by all persons, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor public settings in areas where the COVID-19 Community Level is High. Universal indoor masking is not recommended in areas where the Community Level is Medium or Low. Rather, those who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease from COVID-19 are advised to talk to their healthcare providers about whether to wear a mask in areas where the Community Level is Medium, and decisions about mask-wearing in areas where the Community Level is Medium or Low should otherwise be based on personal preference, informed by each individual’s personal level of risk.

Since March 2022, based on the foregoing guidance, and with the unanimous agreement of the Facility Security Committee of the Byrne Courthouse, masks have not been required in common or public areas of the Byrne Courthouse when the Community Level for Philadelphia County has been Medium or Low, except when the Philadelphia Department of Public Health has imposed more stringent masking requirements. Given recent fluctuations in the COVID-19 Community Levels for the counties in this district, and recognizing that Community Levels may

continue to fluctuate, this Standing Order is issued to align the mask requirements for the Byrne Courthouse with the applicable COVID-19 Community Level in Philadelphia County without need of a further order. Accordingly, with the unanimous agreement of the Facility Security Committee, it is ORDERED that, effective June 7, 2022, the April 22, 2022 Fourth Amended Standing Order regarding the use of masks or face coverings in common or public areas of the Byrne Courthouse is AMENDED as follows:

1. Effective June 7, 2022, **if the current COVID-19 Community Level in Philadelphia County is High** (*see* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>), all persons entering the Byrne Courthouse are required to wear a mask or face covering that covers the wearer's nose and mouth when entering the building and when in common or public areas of the Courthouse, regardless of vaccination status. Visitors are expected to supply their own mask or face covering. Any person seeking entry to the Courthouse without an appropriate mask or face covering will be provided a mask by the Court.

2. **If the current COVID-19 Community Level in Philadelphia County is Medium or Low** (*see* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>), the wearing of masks or face coverings is not required when entering the building or when in common or public areas of the Courthouse.

3. All persons are permitted and encouraged to wear a mask or face covering that covers the wearer's nose and mouth in the Courthouse if they wish to do so, regardless of the applicable COVID-19 Community Level. There are many reasons why a person might need or want to wear a face mask, and all are asked to respect the health decisions of others in this regard. Although visitors who wish to mask are expected to supply their own mask or face covering, the Court will continue to make masks available for visitors at Courthouse entrances.

4. Regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, judges retain the discretion to require masks in the courtroom, as they see fit. Building tenants also retain the discretion to require masks in their own space, as they see fit.

5. This Standing Order shall remain in effect until amended or vacated. The Facility Security Committee will continue to closely monitor conditions with regard to COVID-19 in this district and the available public health guidance and will amend this Order as circumstances require.

6. This Standing Order shall be enforceable by the United States Marshals Service and the Court Security Officers.

/s/ Juan R. Sánchez
Juan R. Sánchez
Chief Judge

Date: June 6, 2022