

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

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

On April 15, 2022, with the unanimous agreement of the Facility Security Committee of the James A. Byrne U.S. Courthouse, this Court issued a Standing Order reinstating the requirement that masks be worn by all in common or public areas of the Byrne Courthouse, consistent with the City of Philadelphia’s decision to move to its more restrictive “Mask Precautions” COVID-19 Response Level and to require that masks be worn in all indoor public spaces. Today, the Philadelphia Department of Public Health announced that due to a recent leveling-off of COVID-19 case counts and a decrease in COVID-19 hospitalizations in the City, masks are strongly recommended but are no longer required in most public indoor settings. A mask requirement is also not indicated at this time based on CDC guidance as all counties in this district, including Philadelphia County, are currently classified at the “low” COVID-19 Community Level. Accordingly, upon consideration of these changed circumstances, and with the unanimous agreement of the Facility Security Committee, it is ORDERED that, effective immediately, the April 15, 2022 Third 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 immediately, the wearing of masks or face coverings will no longer be required when entering the building or when in common or public areas of the Courthouse.

2. Although masks are not required, 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. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health strongly recommends that masks be worn in indoor public settings at this time. 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. Visitors who wish to mask are expected to supply their own mask or face covering; however, the Court will continue to make masks available for visitors at Courthouse entrances.

3. Judges retain the discretion to require masks in the courtroom, as they see fit.

4. Building tenants 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: April 22, 2022