

IN THE 18th JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

REVISED Administrative Order 21-02

Order Revising COVID Protective Protocols in the 18th Judicial District

This order replaces all previous Administrative Orders issued by Chief Judge Jeffrey Goering in relation to protective protocols put in place due to COVID 19.

Issued on May 24, 2021, Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2021-PR-048 requires all district and appellate courts in Kansas to develop and follow minimum standard health protocols to avoid exposing court users, staff, and judicial officers to COVID-19.

“The chief judge in each of the state’s 31 judicial districts is responsible for developing protocols for all courts within each district. Each district must have a COVID-19 screening and communication protocol, and the protocol must consider whether physical distancing and masking are necessary based on local health conditions.”

After consulting with Dr. Garold Minns, Sedgwick County Health Officer, Tom Stolz, Sedgwick County Manager, and Tania Cole, Sedgwick County Assistant County Manager, the following order is effective July 6, 2021.

1. In accordance with Centers for Disease Control Guidance issued on May 13, 2021, all individuals – including employees - who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to wear masks or other face coverings, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Should fully vaccinated individuals feel more comfortable wearing a mask, they are welcome to continue doing so.
2. Individuals – including employees - who are unvaccinated, for any reason, must continue to wear a mask or other face covering and social distance for their own health and safety and the health and safety of the public.
3. Plexiglas in courtrooms may be removed at the discretion of the District Judge presiding in that courtroom. Plexiglas in other District Court areas will remain.
4. The requirement to wipe down all surfaces between hearings is removed. However, Courtrooms, auxiliary areas used for trial proceedings, and areas used for jury deliberations and breaks (including restrooms, eating areas, stairwells, and elevators) will be routinely cleaned and sanitized by County janitorial services.. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be provided in all areas used by jurors, attorneys, witnesses, and other court personnel.

5. Signage consistent with this administrative order and signage regarding cleaning and safety protocols shall be posted in English, Spanish and Vietnamese in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
6. Upon request or on the court's own motion, a judge may enter an order authorizing a waiver of the requirement to wear a mask or other face covering within the courtroom or other hearing room over which that judge is presiding. Absent constitutional concerns, judges should permit individuals to wear masks if they feel more comfortable doing so.
7. Pursuant to 2021-PR-048, Courthouse Police shall complete COVID-19 screening measures for visitors in public entrances consistent with minimum standard health protocols, either in writing, verbally or through a combination of written or verbal communications. These screening measures shall include communications that: (a) if a person is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, that person would need to wear a mask within the Courthouse; and (b) any unvaccinated person who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days should contact Courthouse Police. For any person described within subsection (b), such person will be denied entrance and given instructions about how to reschedule their court hearing. Also, a Visitor Alert notice should be posted at all entrances to all courthouses and all court offices.
8. Limits on how many people can ride an elevator at the same time will be removed for vaccinated individuals. Unvaccinated individuals should ride with no more than three other people in the same elevator.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2021



JEFFREY GOERING
Chief Judge, 18th Judicial District