

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEWYORK**

GENERAL ORDER #61

**October 8, 2020
Revised May 19, 2021**

**IN RE: CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PUBLIC EMERGENCY
ORDER CONCERNING FACE MASKS/COVERINGS IN PUBLIC
AREAS OF NDNY COURTHOUSES**

WHEREAS this Court continues to evaluate its response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus, and recognizes the need to assist in the preservation of public safety and health while effectively administering justice during this period of national emergency; and

WHEREAS, updated guidance issued May 13, 2021 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear masks in most indoor settings; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of New York on May 17, 2021 adopted these new guidelines to allow fully vaccinated individuals to remove their masks and stop social distancing in most public settings, effective May 19, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Court is advised that the United States Office of Management and Budget has informed federal agencies that fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks within federal buildings,

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to continue to further public health and safety, the health and safety of Court personnel, counsel, litigants, other case participants, vendors, contractors, and the general public, and in the spirit of the guidance issued by the Governor of the State of New York:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that fully vaccinated individuals entering any United States Courthouse in the Northern District of New York are no longer required to wear a mask in common areas of the courthouse.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that non-vaccinated visitors to the Court, including vendors, contractors, litigants, attorneys, and other members of the public, shall be required to wear a mask or a face covering when in the common or public areas of the courthouse. Face masks should cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly against the sides without gaps. While medical masks and N-95 respirators fulfill these requirements, bandanas and “gators” are not an acceptable substitute for the use of a mask.

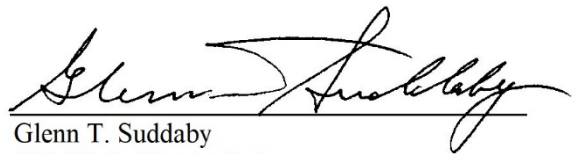
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that signs will be posted at the entrance of each courthouse notifying all visitors of the requirement for non-vaccinated individuals to wear facial masks/coverings while in common areas. While Court Security Officers manning the entrances of the Courthouse may inform visitors of this requirement, they are prohibited from inquiring as to the vaccination status of any individual.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that policies regarding mask covering and social distancing within a courtroom, jury room or chambers area shall be determined by the presiding/resident judicial officer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that policies regarding mask covering and social distancing within the internal space of an agency or court unit shall be determined by the agency or court unit occupying that space.

This Order shall be effective Thursday, May 20th and remain in effect until amended or vacated by the undersigned.

Dated this 19th day of May 2021 at Syracuse, New York


Glenn T. Suddaby
Chief U.S. District Judge