

IN THE 19th JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

**Amended Administrative Order
21-01**

Order Revising COVID Protective Protocols in the 19th Judicial District

This order replaces Administrative Order No. 2020-2 issued by Chief Judge Nicholas M. St. Peter on May 14, 2020 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 Tom Langer, Cowley County Health Officer, and Lucas Goff, Cowley County, the following order will be 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. Effective immediately (June 1, 2021) 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, and Spanish and 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, a Visitor Alert notice should remain posted at all entrances to all court offices. Court security officers will continue to screen visitors who enter a designated court area, "Are you fully vaccinated against COVID?" will be asked of everyone entering through security, and if a person replies "no", or if they choose not to answer this question, they will be required to wear a mask in all court areas, subject to any waiver made by a presiding judge as referenced in paragraph 6 of this order. Additionally, a Judge of a Court Services Officer may require any individual in their courtroom or office to remain masked or to otherwise provide proof of full vaccination. Anyone who is experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to someone with COVID in the last 14 days will be denied entrance and will be told who to contact to reschedule their court hearing or to complete their business in the court clerk's office remotely.
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 two other people in the same elevator.
9. Fully vaccinated individuals are not subject to rules of social/physical distancing. Masked Individuals who have not been fully vaccinated shall continue to maintain physical/social distancing of 6 feet from other persons.
10. Rules applicable to prospective or impaneled jurors are set forth in the Jury Trial Plan for the 19th Judicial District that has previously approved by the Kansas Supreme Court. Those rules shall remain in effect until specifically modified in an Amended Jury Trial Plan filed with the Kansas Supreme Court. Approval of the Jury Trial Plan by the Kansas Supreme Court is no longer required, but the plan must be filed with the Office of Judicial Administration and the contents made public. An Amended Jury Trial Plan will be submitted prior to July 6, 2021.

Amended this 10th day of June 2021.



NICHOLAS M. ST. PETER
Chief Judge, 19th Judicial District

