

**IN THE 19<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

**Amended Administrative Order  
22-01**

BY \_\_\_\_\_

**Order Revising COVID Protective Protocols in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District**

This order modifies all prior Administrative Order's related to COVID 19 Protective Protocols in the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. Said orders were previously issued by Chief Judge Nicholas M. St. Peter, in relation to protective protocols put in place due to COVID 19.

On March 2, 2022, The Kansas Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2022-PR-014 regarding District Court operations and COVID 19 protective protocols. The order directs the Chief Judge of the Judicial District to develop and follow minimum standard health protocols to avoid exposing court users, staff, and judicial officers to COVID-19. In developing minimum standards, the Chief Judge should consider any order of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice and should consult with local public officials, KDHE, and the CDC in developing minimum standards.

After considering guidance from local public health officials, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the CDC and considering the decrease in percentage of positive COVID tests in the county.

The court directs that face masks will not be required to be worn by employees, staff, or individuals in public areas of the court or court clerk's office. However, any individual who wishes to wear a face mask shall be allowed to do so. Each judge shall maintain control over their individual courtroom and court proceedings and each judge may require individuals entering their courtroom to wear a mask in their courtroom. This provision is subject to change in the event the level of Covid 19 infections in the county should increase or in the event local, state, or national health authorities should make further recommendations regarding the need to address the continued spread of COVID 19 and the risk of infection to the community.

Individuals who are ill and have active symptoms related to Covid 19 or who are subject to quarantine related to illness or exposure to individuals who have tested positive for COVID 19, shall not be allowed in public areas or courtrooms. These individuals shall contact the court clerk's office by telephone or other electronic means to obtain service from the court or request a continuance of their hearing or to appear remotely for their court hearing. An individual may be required to provide documentation of an order of quarantine, positive COVID test results or other requested medical information to be excused from a required court appearance.

The court shall comply with Section B, regarding Remote Hearings; Section C, regarding Jury Trials and Section D, regarding Media and Public Access to hearings as set for in Kansas Supreme Court Administrative Order 2022-PR-014.

Ordered this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 2022.



NICHOLAS M. ST. PETER  
Chief Judge, 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District

