

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

IN RE: MASKING REQUIRED FOR JURY TRIAL PARTICIPANTS DURING
SUBSTANTIAL AND HIGH COVID-19 TRANSMISSION PERIODS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 24-2021


OFFICE OF THE
PROthonOTARY
CHESTER CO. PA.

2021 DEC -8 PM 2:36

FILED

AND NOW, this 8th day of December, 2021, in consideration of the continuing substantial and high COVID-19 transmission levels within Chester County, consistent with the current CDC and Chester County Department of Health recommendations, and in order to better safeguard jurors and other participants in Chester County jury trials, it is hereby **ORDERED** and **DECREED** that during periods of substantial and high COVID-19 transmission levels in Chester County, all jury trial participants, including jurors, lawyers, witnesses, parties, tipstaves, sheriff deputies, clerks, court reporters, judges and observing members of the public, shall wear a mask covering the face and mouth during jury trial related proceedings, including in jury assembly rooms, jury deliberation rooms, courtrooms and movement to and from those rooms. The common pleas judge presiding over a jury trial shall be responsible for ensuring that jury trial participants comply with this order, but shall retain the discretion to allow certain jury trial participants to speak during trials without masks as circumstances warrant, including by witnesses during witness testimony, by lawyers/*pro se* parties during opening statements and closing arguments, by the judge during the jury instructions and charge and by jurors during deliberations in a large deliberation room.¹

BY THE COURT:



JOHN L. HALL, President Judge

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¹ The Chester County court administration staff shall be responsible to ensure that prospective jurors comply with this order in the jury assembly room and before jurors are selected for trial. Court administration shall have masks available for those without a personal mask. For purposes of this order, transmission levels shall be calculated by the Chester County Health Department.