



MICHAEL J. CORDONNIER
Presiding Judge

STATE OF MISSOURI
CIRCUIT COURT, 31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GREENE COUNTY JUDICIAL FACILITY
1010 Boonville Ave
Springfield, Missouri 65802
Phone (417) 868-4127
Fax (417) 829-6366

KYLIE YOUNG
Court Administrator

Lorree Allen
Secretary to Presiding Judge

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY
STATE OF MISSOURI
31ST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

**In Re: Court Normalization Order
Notification to the Public - Face Coverings/Masking**

Administrative Order 2021-AO22

WHEREAS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the President of the United States has declared a specific Variant of Concern, identified as the *Delta Variant*, as a “Pandemic of the Unvaccinated;” and

WHEREAS all COVID-19 vaccines currently available in the United States are **effective** at preventing COVID- 19, help protect people from getting sick or severely ill and might also help protect people around the vaccinated person, *See: Centers for Disease Control website, May 10, 2021*; and

WHEREAS despite the vaccines being widely available, certain parts of the country have very low rates of vaccination in the population and as a result the immunity offered has been less effective at slowing the rate of COVID-19 infection; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control has published a guidance that reads as follows:

“To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of **substantial or high transmission.**”
See: CDC Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, July 27, 2021;
and

WHEREAS of the 114 counties and one independent city in the State of Missouri, 112 counties have been identified as areas of “substantial or high transmission;” and

WHEREAS Greene County, Missouri, which includes the 31st Judicial Circuit, has been identified as an area of “high transmission.”

WHEREFORE, the Presiding Judge hereby enters the following order:

1. Effective August 1, 2021 all persons admitted to the public areas of the Greene County Judicial Courts Facility or the Greene County Juvenile Facility will be required to wear a face covering that covers their nose and mouth.
2. All persons in the private areas of the Greene County Judicial Courts Facility or the Greene County Juvenile Facility shall continue to follow the CDC recommendation of no face covering necessary for persons that have been fully vaccinated; face covering is required of all persons not vaccinated; and all persons to observe 3' spacing whenever possible.
3. In order to preserve and enhance the ability to communicate, all judges are accorded the prerogative to relieve the masking requirement for all lawyers, litigants or other persons when those persons are speaking in court.
4. Judges, court staff, attorneys and parties are still encouraged to use all available technologies – including teleconferencing and video conferencing - whenever possible to limit in-person courtroom appearances to the extent practical and not prohibited by constitutional or statutory provisions.
5. The Court will continue the enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures undertaken at the Greene County Judicial Courts Facility and Greene County Juvenile Facility.
6. Judicial employees will be subject to quarantine based on various circumstances. Any employee who experiences COVID symptoms, or who has had any contact with another person that is sick, or has had contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID- 19 should immediately report that circumstance to their supervisor for further instructions.
7. **MUNICIPAL DIVISIONS**
 - a. The Municipal Divisions in Greene County, including Ash Grove, Battlefield, Fair Grove, Republic, Springfield, Strafford, Walnut Grove and Willard are each governed by the Order.

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent order of the court. It is hoped and anticipated that both the national and community circumstances will improve. Depending on the community circumstances, and the then current guidance from the CDC and the Springfield Greene County Health Department, the Court will amend this order as appropriate.

Dated: July 29, 2021



Michael J. Cordonnier
Presiding Judge
31st Judicial Circuit