

FILED

AUG 26 2021

**Circuit Courts
Multnomah County, Oregon**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of Implementing) PRESIDING JUDGE ORDER NO. 2101-00000
Chief Justice Order No. 21-025)
) ORDER EXTENDING COVID-19 TRANSITION

On June 28, 2021, Chief Justice Martha Walters issued Chief Justice Order (CJO) 21-025, which lifted many restrictions previously imposed on court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of emergency declared by Oregon Governor Kate Brown. On June 29, 2021, I adopted a Presiding Judge Order (PJO) implementing CJO 21-025 during the Transition Period (June 30 through September 6, 2021), and addressing the manner of conducting court proceedings starting September 7, 2021 (then optimistically defined as the “Post-Pandemic Period”).

During August, 2021, reported COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations increased dramatically in Oregon. This surge was attributed to the Delta variant of the virus and vaccination rates that were lower than needed to effectively prevent the spread of the virus. As a result, public and private employers and others have re-imposed protective face covering requirements and taken other actions to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

On July 28, 2021, I issued a PJO extending the requirement for protective face coverings in court facilities through September 6. On August 11, 2021, I issued another PJO extending the scope of the protective face covering requirement to include judicial chambers, staff work areas and other areas in the courthouse where people come into contact with each other.

Based on the recent developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, I have concluded that the protective face covering requirement and the limitations on court proceedings imposed during the Transition Period should be extended through October 31, 2021.

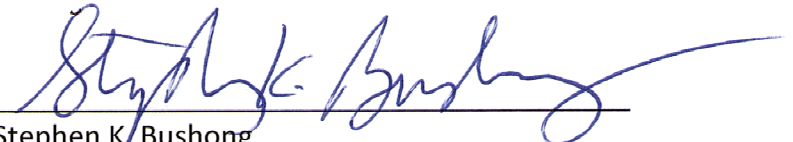
Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. PJO 2101-00000 Re Protective Face Coverings in Court Facilities (adopted June 29, 2021, extended July 28, 2021, and scope extended August 11, 2021) shall remain in effect through October 31, 2021.
2. Except as specified in this order (below), the restrictions on court proceedings imposed during the Transition Period under PJO 2101-00000 Re Mode of Proceedings for Certain Court Proceedings During Transition and Post-Pandemic Periods (adopted June 29, 2021), shall remain in effect through October 31, 2021.

3. The misdemeanor dockets and procedures will return to pre-pandemic operations beginning with CPC call on September 2 for trials starting September 7. Unless ordered otherwise in a case, attorneys and defendants may appear by telephone or in person for Trial Readiness, CPC dockets, CPC call, diversion dockets and plea hearings at the Central Courthouse and (where applicable) the East County Courthouse. Those procedures will remain in effect during the extended Transition Period.
4. In-person civil jury trials scheduled during the extended Transition Period will be rescheduled to a date on or after November 1, 2021, unless the parties can establish that there is good cause for conducting an in-person civil jury trial during the extended Transition Period. Any good cause requests should be presented to the Presiding Judge, except that good cause requests in complex and other specially-assigned cases should be presented to the assigned judge. Remote jury trials, bench trials, and 6-person jury trials in civil cases may be conducted during the extended Transition Period by stipulation with at least 6 weeks' notice to the Presiding Judge.
5. Court proceedings during the "Post-Transition Period" (fka "Post-Pandemic Period") starting November 1, 2021, will be conducted in the manners described in the June 29 PJO for the "Post-Pandemic Period."

This order takes effect immediately and shall remain in effect until extended or terminated by further order of this court.

DATED: August 26 2021



Stephen K. Bushong
Presiding Judge, Multnomah County Circuit Court