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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

7 In Re:

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9 NEW FACE MASK POLICY

GENERAL ORDER NO. 11-21

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12 This General Order will address a change in Court policies given a significant increase in
13 positive cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in this District.

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15 On July 27, 2021, the CDC issued a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial
16 or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated.
17 New data indicates that the Delta variant, the predominant strain of this virus in the United States,
18 is transmissible among vaccinated individuals. In late July, eight Western Washington counties,
19 including the counties where the courthouses of this district are located, issued a joint statement
20 recommending masks in indoor public places. On August 10, 2021, Snohomish County
21 announced a return to an indoor mask mandate for all individuals regardless of vaccinated status.
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23 All available research continues to indicate that widely available vaccines provide
24 significant protection against this disease. However, to slow the transmission of the virus and to
25 reduce the serious risk of hospitalization and death for unvaccinated individuals, the Court hereby
26 ORDERS the following:
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1 Beginning August 16, 2021, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must
2 wear a face mask in public and common areas of the courthouses at all times.

3 All individuals must wear a face mask in the courtroom unless directed to remove their
4 mask by the presiding judge. Individuals who are participating in Court proceedings will be
5 advised to remove their mask to speak. Witnesses will be asked to remove their mask while they
6 are on the witness stand.
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8 Masks must cover the nose and mouth. All individuals are to observe social distancing
9 in the public areas of the courthouses and courtrooms except as authorized by individual judges
10 in courtroom proceedings. Children under the age of two are not required to wear face masks.
11 Individuals who cannot wear a face mask for health reasons but who otherwise must appear in
12 Court are advised to contact the chambers of the judge presiding over the matter they are
13 attending for further guidance.
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15 Other than this change to mask-wearing, the policies set forth in General Order No.
16 10-21 remain in effect.
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18 The Court will revisit these procedures prior to October 1, 2021.

19 Dated this 13th day of August, 2021.
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22 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ
23 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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