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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

8 In Re:

9 REINSTATEMENT OF INDOOR MASK  
10 REQUIREMENT DUE TO COVID-19  
11 AND RELATED CORONAVIRUS

GENERAL ORDER NO. 07-22

12 This General Order amends General Order 04-22 only with regard to face masks. The  
13 Court incorporates its prior findings regarding COVID-19 and the emergency declarations and  
14 public health guidelines as set forth in General Order 03-22.  
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16 In the last month, COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased in the Western District of  
17 Washington. This is likely due to the arrival of new Omicron subvariants and reflects a spread  
18 of the virus in the general population not otherwise recorded by local public health agencies due  
19 to the widespread use of at-home testing. Vaccinated individuals may become infected with this  
20 subvariant and individuals who have previously been infected may become reinfected. The Court  
21 finds it necessary to reimpose the mandatory use of face masks to protect all individuals who find  
22 themselves in the courthouse, including those who are ordered to appear.  
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24 Given all of the above, the Court ORDERS that, effective Monday, July 11, 2022:

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- 26 • Face masks will be required for any person entering the courthouse and must be worn at  
27 all times in the lobby, hallways, elevators, and other common areas as well as in  
28 courtrooms. Witnesses testifying on the stand may be required to remove their mask at

1 the discretion of the presiding judge. Any other person speaking in the courtroom may  
2 be asked by the judge to temporarily remove their mask if their words cannot be  
3 understood by the court reporter.

- 4 • Consistent with prior General Orders, children under the age of two are not required to  
5 wear face masks. Individuals who cannot wear a face mask for health reasons but who  
6 otherwise must appear in Court are advised to contact the chambers of the judge presiding  
7 over the matter they are attending for further guidance.
- 8 • COVID-19 Conditions of Entry signs will continue to be posted at the entrances to the  
9 Seattle and Tacoma Courthouses. Most individuals who review the information will  
10 understand when it is wise, from a public health standpoint, to voluntarily not enter the  
11 building. However, Court Security Officers are authorized to ask if an individual has  
12 read the Conditions of Entry sign, and to deny entry to persons who confirm that they are  
13 currently diagnosed with COVID-19 or have experienced COVID-19 symptoms in the  
14 last five days, and who therefore pose a significant risk of spreading the Coronavirus to  
15 the public. The CDC recommends that people wear a well-fitting mask for five days after  
16 their quarantine period.
- 17 • All other provisions of General Order 04-22 remain in place.

18 DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2022.

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25 RICARDO S. MARTINEZ  
26 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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