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CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

BY

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

GENERAL ORDER -REGARDING CHANGES IN)
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS)

AMENDED GENERAL ORDER
2022-007

CR-22-999999

The Court makes the following findings:

On September 8, 2021, the Court issued General Order 2021-017. On December 22, 2021, the Court issued General Order 2021-019. These orders established revised COVID-19 protocols to protect public health and safety, while continuing to provide public access to the Court. The Court based its orders on orders and guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and expressly relied on an order from the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer, dated September

1 2, 2021. Among other things, the Court’s order required all persons entering a court facility in
2 Stanislaus County to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status.

3 On January 5, 2022 the CDPH extended the requirement for universal masking indoors
4 statewide, regardless of vaccination status, due to the emergence of the more contagious
5 Omicron variant. On January 18, 2022, the 7-day positivity rate in Stanislaus County was
6 31.7%. <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/#location-stanislaus>

7
8 Effective February 16, 2022, CDPH’s statewide indoor masking mandate
9 expired and reverted to its previous masking guidance, which requires only unvaccinated
10 individuals to mask in indoor public settings. However, workplaces are still required to follow
11 the COVID-19 prevention standards set by Cal/OSHA and set forth in its Emergency Temporary
12 Standards, which require employees to wear facial coverings in certain situations or locations.

13
14 On February 25, 2022, the CDC published recommendations regarding the Use and Care
15 of Masks [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html)
16 [coverings.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html). The CDC developed a risk assessment tool based on local conditions and other
17 factors. Mask recommendations are based on Community Levels – High, Medium, and Low.

18
19 On February 28, 2022, CDPH revised its Guidance for Use of Face Masks, effective
20 March 1, 2022, and the requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings
21 changed to a strong recommendation that all persons, regardless of vaccine status, continue
22 indoor masking.

23
24 As of March 14, 2022, the 7-day positivity rate in Stanislaus County is 3.1%.
25 <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/#location-stanislaus>. Using the CDC criteria, Stanislaus
26 County’s community level is “Low”. At this community level, CDC recommends people wear a
27 mask based on personal preference.
28

1 Based on the revised orders and guidance from federal, state and local public health
2 officials, the COVID-19 protocols set for the in General Order 2021-017 and General Order
3 2021-019 are no longer required to protect the safety of the public, attorneys, justice partners,
4 law enforcement personnel, parties, and Court personnel.

5 Based on these findings, the Court orders:

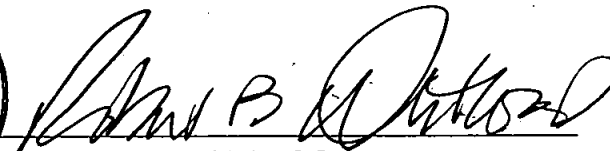
- 6 1. General Order 2021-017 and General Order 2021-019 are revoked;
- 7 2. To the extent permitted by law and authorized by the judicial officer presiding over
8 the matter, court hearings may be conducted using remote technology, e.g., ZOOM
9 video/teleconferencing, VCourt, etc.
- 10 3. Judicial officers may allow non-confidential, Criminal proceedings to be livestreamed
11 to the Court's YouTube channel. The livestream can be accessed at
12 <https://www.stanct.org/node/4199553>.
- 13 4. To protect public health and safety, the Court reserves the right to reinstate any
14 previously established COVID-19 protocols; or adopt new ones;

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18 This order is effective immediately, and shall remain in effect until amended or revoked by
19 further order of the court.

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21
22
23 DATED: 3/16/22



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27 ROBERT B. WESTBROOK,
28 PRESIDING JUDGE