

IN THE CLEVELAND HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

In the matter of  
UPDATED ORDER IN RESPONSE TO THE  
COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PUBLIC HEALTH  
CRISIS

**GENERAL ORDER**

In response to the public health crisis created by COVID-19, the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court implemented numerous safety measures through a series of Orders to ensure our Court maintained its essential functions while complying with public health orders and guidelines.

On May 16, 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that fully vaccinated individuals could resume activities without wearing masks or physically distancing.<sup>1</sup>

On June 1, 2021, the Cleveland Heights City Manager issued a memorandum indicating that effective immediately, City employees who were fully vaccinated were no longer required to wear face coverings inside City of Cleveland Heights' buildings and facilities.

On June 2, 2021, Governor DeWine rescinded the vast majority of health orders, including the statewide mask mandate.<sup>2</sup>

On June 14, 2021, the seven-day average in Cuyahoga County of new COVID-19 cases fell below forty for the first time since March of 2020.<sup>3</sup>

As of June 14, 2021, 46.66% of the population of Ohio and 51.94% of the population of Cuyahoga County had started the COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>4</sup>

Accordingly, to further serve the community and in accordance with the most updated guidance, effective immediately, all prior orders relating to COVID-19 are hereby rescinded.

All individuals entering court facilities who are fully vaccinated shall not be required to wear face coverings. All individuals who are not fully vaccinated, including children under 12, shall be required to wear face coverings. For the purpose of this Order, individuals are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they receive the second dose in a two-dose series or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine. The Court may require an individual

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/publicorders/rev-2nd-final-amended-do-soc-dist-remove-face-cover-21.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/ohio-covid-cases.html>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard>.

to provide proof of vaccination. Individuals who wish to wear a face covering for personal health reasons shall be permitted to do so unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

The General Order dated September 20, 2019, setting forth the bond schedule to be used when a judicial officer (judge or magistrate) is unavailable, is in effect without modification.

Previous limitations on in-person access to Court facilities are hereby lifted. All hearings that may require testimony or evidence to be presented shall be in person. Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless otherwise ordered, all criminal, traffic, and civil pre-trials, case management conferences, garnishment hearings, and driving privileges hearings will continue to be conducted by telephone. Hearings may be conducted via video, but Court approval is required in advance.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

June 15, 2021  
DATE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.J. Costello", is written above a horizontal line.

JUDGE J.J. COSTELLO