

From: [Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor](#)
Subject: Updated Mask Protocol at the Ohio Judicial Center
Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2021 11:25:29 AM

Dear Judge,

I'm sure you are aware of the recent news regarding the surge in COVID-19 Delta variant cases. The virus is spreading quickly and Franklin County is now listed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as a substantial transmission area. On July 27, 2021, the CDC issued [updated guidance](#) which recommended that all individuals wear masks while in public indoor settings, if in an area of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission.

Given the CDC's most current guidance and Franklin County's transmission rates, yesterday afternoon the Court voted to require that all employees and visitors in the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center wear masks inside the building. This new mask mandate is effective immediately and will remain in place until further notice.

I understand that there are meetings scheduled in our building in the upcoming days and weeks. As of today, those meetings will continue, with masks, and with physical distancing protocols in place. Of course, our staff will also continue conference room and common area touch point sanitation and cleaning at various times each day. We are committed to keeping our visitors as safe as possible. With that being said, staff will also accommodate requests to join meetings remotely, if you'd prefer not to travel to Columbus.

This is certainly not the news I had hoped to share with you at the beginning of August 2021 but here we are. Hopefully this will be a short-lived setback in our progress against the virus.

Stay well. Be safe. God Bless.

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Connor
Chief Justice