

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFYING
HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS
FOR COURT FACILITIES IN MARICOPA
COUNTY

AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2022-019

(AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NOs. 2021-103, 2021-104, and
2021-105)

Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2021-187 authorizes the presiding superior court judge of each county to modify that county's judicial branch health emergency orders to address the use of social distancing and other health and safety measures to protect employees and the public from the spread of COVID-19. Superior Court Administrative Orders 2021-103, 2021-104, and 2021-105 (as amended by Administrative Orders 2021-112, 2021-119, and 2021-169) establish pandemic-related health and safety requirements for, respectively, the Superior Court, the Justice Courts and the Municipal Courts in Maricopa County. After consultation with the Maricopa County Public Health Department, and based upon its recommendations, certain changes to health and safety protocols are now warranted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED social distancing requirements in the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County and the Justice Courts within Maricopa County will remain at three feet apart. Re-marking court spaces is in progress. Spacing will remain at six feet apart in any area of a court facility until the space is re-marked to three feet. Any areas not otherwise marked are subject to three feet spacing.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning March 7, 2022, the health screening protocols for all who enter the facilities of the Judicial Branch in Maricopa County and the Justice Courts in Maricopa County will change as follows: Persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the previous five days or persons who self-report having a fever will be barred entry into judicial branch facilities. Persons with any of the following unexplained symptoms of COVID-19—sore throat, runny nose, cough or congestion—will not be allowed access to judicial branch facilities unless they have tested negative for COVID-19 in the previous 48 hours. Persons with unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 (other than a fever) who have tested negative for COVID-19 in the previous 48 hours will be allowed entry but will be required to wear a mask at all times while inside a court facility. Additionally, any person who has been exposed to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days will also be allowed entry but will be required to wear a mask at all times while inside a court facility.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for all other persons, beginning March 7, 2022, wearing a mask inside a Judicial Branch facility in Maricopa County is encouraged but will be voluntary.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that judicial officers have the discretion to require masks in their courtrooms for the duration of any jury trial currently in session. For future jury trials, judicial officers have the discretion to require masks be worn by all persons in the courtroom only when a trial participant or juror is required to wear a mask in accordance with the mandatory mask requirements set forth above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Municipal court presiding judges within Maricopa County, taking into account the individual circumstances of their court facilities, have the discretion and authority to modify their respective health screening protocols, social spacing requirements and mask requirements for all areas of their respective court facilities.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Administrative Orders 2021-112, 2021-119, and 2021-169 are rescinded.

Dated this _____ day of March, 2022.

/s/ Joseph C. Welty
Hon. Joseph C. Welty
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: All Superior Court Judges
All Superior Court Commissioners
All Justices of the Peace in Maricopa County
All Municipal Court Judges in Maricopa County
Hon. Jeff Fine, Clerk of the Superior Court
Hon. Allister Adel, Maricopa County Attorney
Rosemarie Pena-Lynch, Office of Public Defense Services
Dave Byers, Administrative Office of the Courts
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch
Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator
Shawn Friend, Deputy Court Administrator
All Department Administrators
Sean Gibbs, Director of Security