

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FILED  
AUG 03 2021

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021 -19

*Kristina A. Steel*  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OGLE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

WHEREAS, due to the frequently changing circumstances involved with the COVID-19 pandemic, measures must continue to be implemented and updated to both protect the health and safety of all those working inside the courthouse and the public, and to ensure the fair and efficient access to justice; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated Public Health Recommendations for the information of fully vaccinated people due to new evidence on the Delta variant currently circulating in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Ogle County Health Department currently recommend that all individuals, **regardless of vaccination status** (*emphasis added*), wear masks in public indoor settings if they are in an area of substantial or high level of community transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Ogle County is currently experiencing a substantial or high level of community transmission of COVID-19; and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. Individuals entering the Ogle County Judicial Center, courtrooms, immediate adjacent areas and chambers areas must wear a mask or face covering whether vaccinated or not. All persons inside a courtroom, including courtroom personnel shall wear a mask or face covering. A judge retains the authority and discretion to allow any person inside a courtroom to remove a mask or face covering when necessary for the fair and effective administration of justice.
2. Within each department in the Ogle County Judicial Center, as long as each employee can maintain a 6-foot distance, masks within the offices is not mandatory.
3. Individuals, including judges, court staff, parties, attorneys, jurors and witnesses should not enter the courthouse if they:

- Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or the COVID-19 Delta variant and are therefore currently subject to quarantine or isolation protocols; or
  - Have new flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath (excluding such symptoms caused by chronic conditions); or
  - Currently have been directed to quarantine or isolate at home by any medical provider or public health official; or
  - Reside or have regular close contact with a person currently subject to quarantine or isolation direction issued by a medical provider or a public health official.
4. The purpose of this Order is to outline temporary measures and procedural changes that are being put into effect in response to Ogle County reaching the substantial transmission stage. These measures are precautionary and necessary in order to reduce the risk to staff and the public whom we serve. This policy is based upon information from the Ogle County Health Department, the CDC and other resources and will be reevaluated on a regular basis as guidance and policies from local, state and federal authorities change.

This Administrative Order is effective August 4, 2021 and remains in effect until further order of the Court. The Court will continue to review and adjust the Order as necessary.

ENTERED: August 3, 2021

  
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ROBERT T. HANSON  
Presiding Circuit Judge