

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

FILED

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In re: COURT OPERATIONS DURING
THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY
CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
N.D. OF ALABAMA

GENERAL ORDER
No. 2021-03
REQUIREMENT OF FACE COVERING IN THE
HUGO BLACK UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND
THE ROBERT S. VANCE FEDERAL BUILDING
AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

This Court has continued to monitor information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other public health authorities. Pursuant thereto, this Court finds it appropriate to modify General Order 2020-08 with regard to wearing face coverings or masks (hereinafter "masks") in public settings where social distancing cannot be maintained.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That all persons over the age of eight years, including but not limited to: Court employees; visitors and parties to cases; jurors; witnesses; attorneys and their support staff, including United States Attorneys, members of the Federal Defender's Office, and members of the Criminal Justice Act Panel of Attorneys; United States Probation Officers; Court Security Officers; United States Marshals; all members of law enforcement, Bankruptcy Administration personnel, General Services Administration personnel, including Goodwill employees; maintenance and repair personnel and contractors, cleaning services, vendors, and mail delivery service persons:

1. Shall, effective immediately, wear a mask or face covering while in spaces that are open to the public inside the Hugo Black United States Courthouse and the Robert S. Vance Federal Building and United States Courthouse ("Courthouses"), unless having received specific exception by a Court official, or unless being instructed to remove a mask by an Officer with the United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, or Court Security.

2. Spaces that are open to the public in the Courthouses shall include the entrance areas, lobbies, balconies, public corridors, elevators, public restrooms, stairwells, courtrooms, and any other areas of the Courthouses where the public generally has access.

3. The mask or face covering must completely cover the wearer's nose

and mouth.

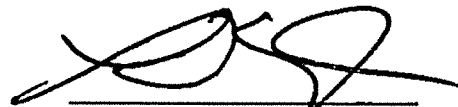
4. The presiding judge in any court proceeding may authorize the removal of a mask during the proceeding.

5. Courthouse employees who are alone in a private office or workspace that permits at least six feet of physical distance from other persons may remove their masks while in their private workspaces.

6. The United States Marshals Service, the Federal Protective Service, and Court Security Officers shall deny entry to the courthouse to persons not wearing a mask. Individuals who remove their masks in violation of this Order after gaining access to the Courthouses may be required to exit the building.

7. This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until further Order of the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED on the 12th day of April, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Scott Coogler', written over a horizontal line.

L. Scott Coogler
Chief U.S. District Judge
Northern District of Alabama