

VIRGINIA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH
IN RE: WEARING OF MASKS IN THE COURTROOMS OF THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT

Pursuant to the Order of the Supreme Court of Virginia dated May 26, 2021, with regard to the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the General District Court of the City of Virginia Beach is authorized to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, the Governor's Executive Orders, and the Virginia Department of Health.

At present, the recommendations of those authorities are that fully vaccinated persons may dispense with the wearing of masks and can cease social distancing in public places. Those persons who are not fully vaccinated are still advised to both wear masks and remain socially distanced when in public places. Because there is no effective mechanism to verify which persons are fully vaccinated as those persons enter the courtrooms of the General District Court, and because those attending court are generally compelled to do so, the General District Court will continue to require social distancing in its courtrooms in order to protect unvaccinated persons from those who purport to be vaccinated but are not. In addition, all persons who are waiting to have cases heard will continue to be required to wear masks. Within each courtroom, the presiding judge may waive the mask requirement for fully vaccinated persons participating in a matter that is before the bench.

Entered this 2nd day of June 2021

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Lahne", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel R. Lahne, Chief Judge