

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-6

COVID-RELATED ISSUES – AMENDMENT OF 2021-5 – MASKS

On June 3, 2021, Administrative Order 2021-5 was entered which allowed the resumption of all court matters. It eliminated restrictions on social distancing and the number of individuals permitted in a courtroom. It also provided that persons who were fully vaccinated did not have to wear a mask in the courthouse.

That Order, and all previous ones pertaining to COVID-19, have been based on the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as Illinois and Champaign County public health officials. Orders have also followed Illinois Supreme Court Orders and have considered directives from the Illinois Governor.

On or about July 29, 2021, the CDC implemented new guidelines for masking due to an increase in the spread of COVID-19, particularly from the Delta variant. The CDC determined that in areas where there is a substantial or high risk of transmission of COVID-19, individuals should wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. The guidelines look at two metrics to determine the category for risk of transmission – low, moderate, substantial and high. Those metrics are the number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 persons and the positivity rate. If an area is in two different categories, the higher category controls.

As of this date, Champaign County was in the substantial risk of transmission category based on the number of COVID-19 cases.

Numerous government entities have re-imposed mask mandates for all employees including the Federal government, State of Illinois and Champaign County employees working at the Brookens Administrative Center. Many school districts require staff and students to wear masks. The University of Illinois requires masks (as well as vaccinations) for all staff and students. Although the Illinois Governor and Illinois Supreme Court have yet to take a position on re-instituting a mask mandate, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Champaign County Public Health Department both recommend masks indoors.

THEREFORE, Administrative Order 2021-5 is amended as follows:

1. Masks shall be worn in all judicial areas, including but not limited to: courtrooms, staff offices, jury assembly room, Public Defender and Court Services.
2. This mask requirement applies to judges, court personnel, attorneys, litigants, jurors, witnesses and the public, regardless of vaccination status.
3. Masks will not be required for employees who are at their desk and/or not in the proximity of other employees or the public.
4. Masks may be removed in courtroom proceedings when speaking.
5. The remaining portions of Administrative Order 2021-5 remain in full force and effect.
6. This Order is effective Monday, August 2, 2021 and is to be reviewed every 30 days at a minimum.

Date: 7/30/21

ENTER: 
Presiding Judge Randall B Rosenbaum