



# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

*Michael D. Planet*  
*Executive Officer/Clerk*  
*and Jury Commissioner*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: June 9, 2020

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## **VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT ORDERS MANDATORY USE OF FACIAL COVERINGS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IN ALL COURTHOUSES**

Ventura Superior Court Presiding Judge Kent Kellegrew has issued Administrative Order 20.18: Mandatory Facial Coverings and Social Distancing Requirements in Effect During COVID-19 Pandemic. The order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until further notice.

“The Court must fulfill its statutory duties while safeguarding the well-being of the public it serves,” said Presiding Judge Kellegrew. “The Court has and continues to take extensive measures to reduce the number of persons coming to its courthouses, including: limiting the matters to be heard on any given day; spreading the scheduling of cases; reducing the number of summonsed jurors; facilitating remote telephonic/video court proceedings; increasing on-line services; and preparing to implement scheduled appointments for in-person services.”

Under the order:

- All persons entering any courthouse, courtroom or other court facility shall wear a face covering/mask over his or her nose and mouth at all times within the public areas of the courthouse or courtroom. Face coverings may include a mask, scarf, bandana, neck gaiter, or any other fabric that covers both the mouth and nose. Face coverings shall also include face shields the cover both the nose and mouth. Children under the age of three (3) are exempt from the order. The order is not intended to apply to the internal offices of the District Attorney or Public Defender.

- Individuals with disabilities may seek an exemption from this order as a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act or California Rules of Court, rule 1.100. To make certain that a timely accommodation is granted, individuals are encouraged to submit a written request to the court clerk's office using California Judicial Council form MC-410 ([ventura.courts.ca.gov/ada.html](http://ventura.courts.ca.gov/ada.html)).
- To reduce the risk of contagion, the matters of individuals exempted from wearing a mask may be scheduled when fewer people are present to reduce the risk of virus transmission.
- Individuals who decline or refuse to wear a mask or face covering will be denied entry to the courthouse and/or courtroom.
- Individuals who remove their masks or face coverings after entering the courthouse or courtroom will be reminded to wear them. If they refuse to do so, they may be denied services, may have their legal matters rescheduled, and/or will be asked to leave the courthouse or courtroom immediately.
- Persons who refuse to leave voluntarily will be escorted out of the courthouse and/or courtroom by Ventura County Sheriff's Department personnel and/or may be punished by contempt.
- Individuals are required to maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from all persons (except those within their household) at all times and comply with social distancing signage throughout the courthouse.
- Individuals are required to practice good hand-washing hygiene and to cover coughs and sneezes, preferably with a tissue, while in the courthouse.
- Court employees who are in a non-public, private office or workspace, which permits at least six (6) feet of physical distance from others, may temporarily remove their face coverings.

This order does not restrict or otherwise abrogate the express and inherent authority of the court and its judges to provide for the orderly conduct of proceedings, including the decision to permit a witness to remove a facial covering while testifying.

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