

1 **SUPERIOR COURT**  
2 **COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**  
3 247 West Third Street, Eleventh Floor  
4 San Bernardino, CA 92415-0302  
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7 **IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
8 **FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO**  
9

10 IN RE:

11 COVID-19 FACE COVERING AND  
12 SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS

} GENERAL ORDER OF THE  
PRESIDING JUDGE

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16 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superior Court of California, County of San  
17 Bernardino, has been closed since March 17, 2020, and only hearing essential, time-  
18 sensitive matters in accordance with emergency orders and statewide orders issued by  
19 Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, countywide and statewide orders issued by the San  
20 Bernardino County Public Health Officer and the State Public Health Officer, executive  
21 orders issued by Governor Gavin Newsom, and general implementation orders issued  
22 by the court. The court's current emergency order, issued by Chief Justice Tani Cantil-  
23 Sakauye on April 29, 2020, expires on May 28, 2020.

24 Public health agencies, including the CDC, the California Department of Public  
25 Health, and local county health departments have recommended that essential  
26 businesses maintain stringent health and safety measures targeted at reducing the  
27 spread of COVID-19. These measures include requiring all persons entering essential  
28 businesses and/or public facilities to wear face coverings and to maintain social

1 distancing of at least six feet between people. (The State of California has deemed  
2 courts essential businesses). Additionally, in her March 17, 2020, statewide order, Chief  
3 Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye permitted courts to make changes in court operations  
4 during this pandemic to protect the health and safety of the public, court personnel, and  
5 criminal defendants brought before the court.


6 As of May 15, 2020, 3198 people within the County of San Bernardino have  
7 been confirmed to be infected with COVID-19, and 139 people have died from COVID-  
8 19. The number of those infected continues to rise. Because court business typically  
9 requires gatherings of judicial officers, court staff, litigants, attorneys, witnesses,  
10 defendants, law enforcement, and juries, the court is following federal, state, and local  
11 guidelines for reducing the spread of COVID-19.

12 Consequently, pursuant to California Rule of Court 10.603 and the Chief  
13 Justice's March 17, 2020, statewide order, the court HEREBY ORDERS AS  
14 FOLLOWS:

15 Effective immediately and continuing until further notice, all judicial officers, court  
16 employees, members of the public, members of the media, vendors, justice partners,  
17 law enforcement personnel, and any other person entering into any courthouse must  
18 wear a face covering at all times while in and on the courthouse premises. Face  
19 coverings are not required for children aged 2 years or younger.

20 Further, to the extent feasible, social distance protocols of six feet between  
21 persons will be strictly enforced in the courthouse and in courtrooms. The San  
22 Bernardino County Sheriff and court security staff are hereby authorized to determine  
23 appropriate lengths of social distance between persons. Persons who refuse to comply  
24 with this order will be required to leave the court premises.

25 Dated: May 15, 2020.

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MICHAEL A. SACHS  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court