

**GILBERT MUNICIPAL COURT  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA, STATE OF ARIZONA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

MAINTAINING SAFETY PROTOCOLS	)	
IN THE GILBERT MUNICIPAL COURT/	)	ORDER 2021-01
MODIFYING THE FACIAL COVERING	)	
REQUIREMENTS	)	
	)	
	)	
_____	)	

Due to concern for the spread of COVID-19 in the general population, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Arizona issued numerous Administrative Orders over the last 15 months to address measures to be taken by the Judicial Branch to conduct business in a manner that reduces the risk associated with this public health emergency. The Orders directed the presiding superior court judge of each county to determine how in-person proceedings were to be conducted in each of the county’s court rooms under conditions that protect the health and safety of participants and the public. The Supreme Court orders also mandated that masks or face coverings would be worn by judicial officers, court employees, court participants, and visitors in Judicial Branch facilities throughout Arizona.

The Supreme Court has now issued Administrative Order No. 2021-77 which suspends the statewide mask/face-covering requirement for the Judicial Branch in Arizona and instructs the presiding superior court judge of each county to issue an order addressing the use of masks or face coverings in Judicial Branch facilities throughout their respective county. This order and Maricopa County Superior Court Administrative Order 2021-74 have now been issued giving additional orders to municipal courts about facial covering requirements and further authorizes Presiding Municipal Court Judges to prescribe more restrictive mask requirements where necessary.

**Therefore**, pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2021-77 and Maricopa County Superior Court Administrative Order No. 2021-074

**IT IS ORDERED AS FOLLOWS** that, effective **June 7, 2021**

1. That all court employees are required to wear a face covering in areas identified and posted as “Mask Mandated Areas.”
2. That all other persons entering a court facility are required to have a face-covering in their possession. Those without a face-covering shall be provided one by court security. Face coverings are required in any area identified and posted as a “Mask Mandated Area” within the court facility. Mask Mandated Areas include, but may not be limited to, court security stations, courtrooms, jury assembly areas, information counters, clerk windows and filing counters.
3. That face-coverings are optional in all non-posted areas of a court facility

4. That health screening protocols as defined by the Arizona Office of the Courts will remain in place at the public entrance to the court facility.
5. That social distancing protocols and practices will continue to be utilized as previously exercised by this Court.
6. That the Presiding Judge may designate additional Mask Mandated Areas in any area where there is necessary and substantial interaction between court employees and the public.
7. That within courtrooms, judicial officers may reasonably modify social distancing protocols to facilitate courtroom management and allow temporary removal of face-coverings for purposes of witness testimony, defendant identification, making an appropriate record, or reasons deemed necessary to the interests of justice.
8. That consistent with recommendations by the CDC and local public health guidance, unvaccinated members of the public and unvaccinated employees are encouraged to wear face-coverings while in any area of a court facility.

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2021

/s/ David M. Cutchen Jr.  
Hon. David M Cutchen Jr.  
Presiding Judge  
Gilbert Municipal Court