NOTICE TO THE BAR

COVID-19 – ALL PERSONS IN JUDICIARY FACILITIES FOR JUDICIARY BUSINESS REQUIRED TO WEAR MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING

The Supreme Court by Order dated June 9, 2020 has required that all persons who enter or occupy courthouses or court facilities, including Judiciary areas of mixed-use facilities, must wear masks or other face coverings in community settings (e.g., entranceways, indoor parking garages) and common areas (e.g., courtrooms, elevators). The Court's June 9, 2020 Order is attached.

The Court's Order applies statewide, including in courtrooms in the Municipal Courts. It incorporates exceptions for persons who require accommodations and permits removal of face masks by judges and court staff in private areas. The Order also provides that judges have discretion in removing their face coverings or masks when on the bench, and directing others to do so, so long as social distancing guidelines are maintained.

The June 9, 2020 Order is effective immediately.

Glenn A Grant by SDB

Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Dated: June 10, 2020

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey courts continue to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, including by adopting health and safety precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health (NJ DOH) to reduce the risks of exposure to and transmission of the virus.

Recent studies have shown that individuals who are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic can transmit the virus to others when interacting in close proximity.

The CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

The New Jersey courts are engaged in post-pandemic planning and preparing courthouses and court facilities for the gradual return of judges, court employees, attorneys, court users, and others. To that end, the Supreme Court on June 9, 2020 approved Phases 1 and 2 of the New Jersey courts Post-Pandemic Plan, which provides guidance to internal and external court users on the phased-in return to our court facilities. Phases 1 and 2 of the plan require that employees follow current public health guidance designed to minimize COVID-19 risks, including by maintaining appropriate social distancing and wearing a face covering or mask to cover their noses and mouths in community settings.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that effective immediately and until further order:

1. All persons seeking entry to or occupying any Judiciary facility for Judiciary business (including Probation facilities and Judiciary areas of mixed-use facilities), including but not limited to judges, court staff, security personnel, vendors, contractors, attorneys, litigants, jurors, and other members of the public, are required to wear a face covering or mask when in a community setting, including entering and exiting the courthouse or court facility, entering and exiting court offices, and in indoor parking garages, as well as in all common areas, including, but not limited to, courtrooms, elevators, stairwells, hallways, and restrooms.
2. All persons in courthouses and court facilities for Judiciary business (including Probation facilities and Judiciary areas of mixed-use facilities) shall engage in social distancing, which requires that individuals maintain a six-foot distance between each other.
3. In private chambers and office areas within courthouses and court facilities, judges and court staff may remove their face coverings or masks while they are in a cubicle or private office, so long as social distancing guidelines are maintained. Judges also may use discretion in

removing their face coverings or masks when on the bench, and directing others to do so, so long as social distancing guidelines are maintained.

4. Any visitor seeking entry into a court facility for Judiciary business without a face covering or mask shall be denied immediate entry. Court staff shall be contacted to provide assistance (without in-person contact), which may include directions for the visitor to conduct court business without coming into the building. If it is determined that such individual requires entry to the court building for Judiciary business, the Judiciary will provide a face covering or mask.
5. The provisions of this Order shall be adjusted to accommodate persons with disabilities, including individuals who require a personal attendant; individuals responsible for a minor child; and persons who have a medical basis why they should not wear a face covering or mask.
6. The above provisions shall apply within courtrooms in Municipal Courts.

For the Court,

Chief Justice

Dated: June 9, 2020