



Honorable Darcy J. Rood, Circuit Court Judge

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CIRCUIT COURT

TEMPORARY ORDER

Due to the high/substantial Covid transmission rate in Vernon County and additional deaths due to the virus, this Court has reinstated the face covering requirement. Therefore, effective July 30, 2021, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Safety Requirements for In-person Appearances of the initial Vernon County Operational Plan, which this Court has slightly modified, are in effect until further order of this Court. Specifically,

1. **Personal Protective Equipment** -- Face coverings shall be worn covering both nose and mouth continuously in the courtroom, jury room, common areas and other court-related confined spaces during proceedings. Those attending court will be provided a face mask if they do not have a face covering or if the face covering they have is not acceptable to the judge. The only exception to this requirement will be if the judge determines on the record that it is necessary for a witness not to wear a face covering during the witness's testimony in order for the judge or jury to weigh the witness's credibility. Notices addressing this requirement shall be posted at the entrance of each courtroom, jury room, and court related confined space, and the notice shall provide that this requirement will be enforced by the judge of the circuit court. A plexiglass shield will be mounted at the witness stand.
2. **Face covering** – A “face covering” means a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely. A "face covering" includes but is not limited to a bandana, a cloth face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter, or a religious face covering. A "face covering" does not include face shields (unless specifically permitted by the judge), mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents.