

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

IN RE: POLICY ON MANDATORY USE
OF FACE COVERINGS.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2020-10

Federal and state public health officials agree that, in order to prevent the transmission of coronavirus by asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic carriers, cloth face coverings should be worn in public settings where social distancing measures may be difficult to strictly maintain, especially in regions where community-based transmission of coronavirus is significant. The Court is committed to taking all reasonable measures to safeguard the health of its own personnel and visitors to its courthouses, and accordingly, effective June 8, 2020,


IT IS ORDERED:

1. All persons in a federal courthouse in Nebraska—including Court personnel, lawyers, parties, jurors, and members of the public—shall wear a face covering in public spaces in the courthouse, including but not limited to courtrooms (except as noted in paragraphs 4 and 5), hallways, elevators and stairwells, public restrooms, lobbies, and reception areas. A 6-foot distance from others shall also be maintained whenever feasible.
2. A "face covering" for purposes of this General Order is one that covers both nose and mouth and is effective to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
3. Any person who has legitimate business with the Court, and who does not have a face covering, will be provided with one by the Court.

4. Witnesses testifying during in-court proceedings, and others authorized to be in the courtroom, may remove their face coverings when expressly permitted to do so by the presiding judge.
5. Witnesses testifying during grand jury proceedings, and others authorized to be in the courtroom, may remove their face coverings when expressly permitted to do so by the grand jury foreperson or a representative of the U.S. Attorney's Office.
6. If any person cannot comply with the requirement to wear a face covering because of a medical condition or for some other reason, an exemption or accommodation may be authorized by the Court or by a responsible official of the tenant agency with whom the person has business. That official may, if necessary, inquire into the basis of the requested exemption or accommodation.
7. Court Security Officers shall inform those entering the courthouse of this order and shall enforce it by excluding any person from the building who does not comply with its requirements. The Court Security Officers shall provide any person barred from entering a building with a list of telephone numbers for the agencies in the building.

Dated this 3rd day of June, 2020.

BY THE COURT:



John M. Gerrard
Chief United States District Judge