



Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
P.O. Box 30048
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone 517-373-0128

Thomas P. Boyd
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 14, 2021

TO: All Judges
Court Administrators
Probate Registers

FROM: Thomas P. Boyd

RE: Guidance Regarding Court Operations

Keeping both court visitors and staff safe remains our number one priority. Downward trends in COVID-19 cases and test positivity, along with increased vaccination rates, keep Michigan's judiciary on a steady path to increase capacity. However, current public health conditions warrant continued safety precautions as outlined in [Administrative Order 2020-14](#) and the corresponding [Return to Full Capacity Guide](#). Simply put, both staff and visitors wear masks and follow social distancing practices as described in the Guide.

On May 13, the Centers for Disease Control issued [guidance](#) that fully vaccinated people no longer need to wear face coverings in indoor or outdoor spaces, and may not be required to practice social distancing in some instances. Courts statewide have asked how this revised recommendation impacts court operations. CDC guidance informs individual behavior, and does not have the force of law. The guidance very clearly notes that it DOES NOT APPLY when face coverings and social distancing are required by regulations implemented by other jurisdictions. More importantly, such advice, in the absence of any way to identify who is vaccinated and who is not, creates an unacceptable level of risk.

With safety and access in mind, we will continue to evaluate federal, state, and local guidance and adjust Return to Full Capacity as warranted. For now, we can take a deep breath and continue to protect court employees and the public with current safety measures.