



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 3, 2020
TO: Kern County Superior Court Staff
FROM: Presiding Judge K. Dulcich
Tamarah Harber-Pickens, Court Executive Officer
RE: Emergency Local Rule 2 – Facial Coverings Required in all
Courthouse Buildings – Change in Implementation

On May 19, 2020 the Superior Court of California, County of Kern approved Emergency Local Rule No. 2, which required facial coverings for all those entering a Kern County courthouse building, including employees. Now, in order to be consistent with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards, effective December 1, 2020, the Court needs to tighten the application of this rule for employees working inside courthouse facilities.

Please note that throughout the period of time this emergency local rule is in effect, employees may choose to wear their own facial covering. Disposable facial coverings are also acceptable. Whatever facial covering is chosen must comply with the Court's dress code, i.e. no writings, logos, etc.

Employees will be required to wear their facial coverings in the courtrooms, in all public areas, when traveling throughout the Court buildings, including in the elevators, hallways, any shared workspace and conference rooms. If an employee is alone in a room that has a door or eating/drinking, the facial covering does not need to be used. However, unless the employee works in a room by him/herself, a facial covering will need to be worn while in their own workspace, including cubicle areas.

Employees should also note that there may be instances in which, to ensure that due process is served during court proceedings, an individual judicial officer may modify the rule for other court users/litigants, as appropriate, to address changing circumstances in their individual courtroom. The judge may not excuse employees from wearing their facial coverings or equivalent device as modified to allow for a reasonable accommodation. However, such modifications will be temporary and only based upon the logistics in the individual courtroom.

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