

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
16<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STATE OF MISSOURI**

In Re: COVID-19 Precautionary Measures

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2022-105**

**WHEREAS**, the 16th Judicial Circuit Court operates in the following buildings:

- (1) Downtown Courthouse, 415 East 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106-2706;
- (2) Eastern Jackson County Courthouse, 308 W. Kansas, Independence, MO 64050;
- (3) Family Justice Center, 625 E. 26th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108;
- (4) Albert Reiderer Community Justice Complex, 1315 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106;
- (5) Community Justice Building, 1305 Locust, Kansas City, MO 64106,

These five buildings being collectively referred to herein as “Court Buildings;” and

**WHEREAS**, the Court has followed policies and directives issued by Jackson County relating to mask-wearing and other COVID-19 protocols in County Buildings, including the wearing of masks by Court staff and visitors while in public areas and non-enclosed workspaces of Court Buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Court has been informed that, effective September 26, 2022, Jackson County has made modifications to its prior policies regarding its practice of following the COVID-19 Community Levels provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which utilizes a LOW, MEDIUM and HIGH guide for levels of Community Transmission (“COVID-19 Community Level”), and which will indicate on a weekly basis the precautionary requirements for associates and visitors in County buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, and subject to the other provisions of this Administrative Order, the Court will adopt the same weekly precautionary requirements as those followed by the County for all Court Buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 478.240.2, RSMo, and Article V, Section 15 of the Missouri Constitution, the Presiding Judge has general administrative authority over all judicial personnel and court officials in the Circuit as well as administrative authority over dockets of the Court and the administrative and discretionary authority regarding the manner in which any hearings are conducted in the Court,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, effective September 26, 2022, as follows:

1. Every Friday, Jackson County will provide the Court with a report indicating the Jackson County COVID-19 Community Level that will be in effect for the following week. The

Court will post the Community Level (LOW, MEDIUM or HIGH) on its website at [www.16thcircuit.org](http://www.16thcircuit.org).

2. For weeks when the COVID-19 Community Level is LOW, the following precautionary measures will be in effect for all Court Buildings: (a) Mask wearing – The Court *will not* require Court staff and visitors to wear masks in Court facilities/workspaces, regardless of vaccination status. Wearing masks will be optional.

3. For weeks when the COVID-19 Community Level is MEDIUM, the following precautionary measures will be in effect for all Court Buildings: (a) Mask wearing – The Court *will not* require Court staff and visitors to wear masks in Court facilities/workspaces, regardless of vaccination status. Wearing masks will be optional.

4. For weeks when the COVID-19 Community Level is HIGH, the following precautionary measures will be in effect for all Court Buildings: (a) Mask wearing – The Court *will* require Court staff and visitors to wear masks in Court facilities/workspaces, regardless of vaccination status.

5. Community Levels may change week to week. All Court staff and visitors who enter any Court Building must be prepared to follow the Community Level requirements applicable for each week and have masks on hand if required to wear them in Court Buildings and workspaces.

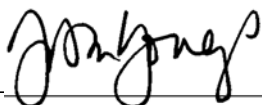
6. Notwithstanding the above, individual judicial officers may require mask wearing within their chambers and courtrooms when the Community Level is LOW or MEDIUM if *specific and articulable circumstances* cause them to conclude that such a requirement is necessary to ensure the health and safety of any Court employee. Judicial officers shall continue to be encouraged to utilize all available technologies, including teleconferencing and video conferencing, for hearings and conferences as lawful and appropriate.

7. Municipal Divisions operating within the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit shall operate pursuant to the terms of this Administrative Order, but may impose more restrictive requirements as the circumstances in their communities may dictate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

**September 22, 2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. Dale Youngs, Presiding Judge

**Certificate of Service**

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing was emailed to the following on September 22, 2022:

Missouri Supreme Court  
16<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Judiciary and Staff  
Frank White, County Executive  
Troy Schulte, County Administrator  
Members of the County Legislature  
Darryl Forte', Sheriff  
Captain Chuck DeGroff, Jackson County Sheriff's Department  
Mary A. Marquez, Court Administrator  
Jean Peters-Baker, Jackson County Prosecutor  
Ruth Petsch, District Defender, Office of the Public Defender  
All Municipal Courts  
Bar Associations located within the 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit

*Angela M. Lopez*