

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HOUSTON COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

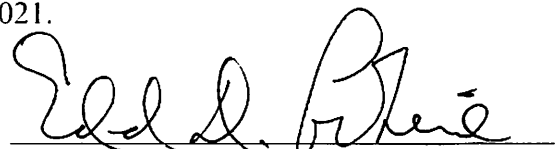
ORDER RE: COVID RESTRICTIONS

On June 30, 2021, the Fifteenth Order Extending Declaration Of Statewide Judicial Emergency expired. Following the expiration of that Order, and after consulting with local public health officials, this Court issued an Order rescinding its Second Amended Operating Guidelines For the Houston Superior And State Courts; that Order was dated July 6, 2021. Subsequently, the number of active covid cases in Houston County continued to decline for a time; however, with the proliferation of the so called "Delta variant," the number of active cases then began a steady increase. The pace of that increase has become rapid in the last several weeks, and the County remains in the "substantial spread" status. On August 6, 2021, the Court issued an Order requiring any person attending a court proceeding in the Houston Superior Court to be masked. Given the continued increase in the number of covid cases and the number of resulting hospitalizations, this Court finds it necessary and appropriate to implement further restrictions and safeguards for those attending Superior Court. The mandate that any person attending the Superior Court of Houston County for a court proceeding wear a mask covering will remain in effect. In addition, social distancing must be maintained in the courtrooms and in the hallways on the second floor. Seats in the courtrooms will be marked, and no one may sit anywhere other than a marked seat. Juries will at all times be spaced according to current public health guidelines. Each judge will determine the method for selection of juries which they believe best protects the participants in the selection process. The procedure of taking temperatures and asking "exposure" questions will also be reinstated for anyone intending to go onto the second floor of the courthouse. These requirements pertain to all jurors, litigants, lawyers and members of the public. The Court finds these restrictions essential to the functioning of the adjudicative process. They will remain in effect until further order of the Court.

SO ORDERED, this 7th day of September, 2021.

FILED IN OFFICE, SUPERIOR COURT OF
HOUSTON COUNTY

SEP 07 2021


Edward D. Lukemire, Chief Judge,
Superior Court, Houston Judicial Circuit


Carolyn D. Sullivan, Clerk

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