

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2021-05

In accordance with the directives outlined in *Supreme Court Executive Order 2021-04*, the following provisions shall apply to Superior Court matters and shall remain in effect until further notice or superseded by subsequent administrative order.

IN-PERSON HEARINGS

All calendars will continue to be staggered to limit crowding and to limit wait times for court appearances whenever feasible. Judges may require all persons in a courtroom to wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status.

Video conferencing with defendants at the Adult Correctional Institution will continue to remain a priority and will be utilized in courtrooms where technology is currently available.

GRAND JURY

Statewide and Providence County grand jury proceedings will return to their respective pre-pandemic grand jury rooms in the Noel Judicial Complex and Licht Judicial Complex effective September 7, 2021. Grand jurors, employees, prosecutors and witnesses may be required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status.

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL JURY TRIALS

Both criminal and civil jury trials in all counties may resume without restrictions. The judge presiding over the trial may require all jurors, staff, attorneys, witnesses and/or spectators to wear masks during the proceedings regardless of vaccination status.

BENCH TRIALS – CRIMINAL AND CIVIL

In-court bench trials will resume without restrictions. Bench trials may be conducted remotely with the consent of all parties. For in-person bench trials, mask requirements will be at the discretion of the presiding judge.

REMOTE HEARINGS

Pursuant to *Supreme Court Executive Order 2021-04*, applicable hearing types and methods of access for remote hearings shall be outlined by administrative order prior to

