

**SUPREME COURT
No. 2021-06**

EXECUTIVE ORDER

COVID-19 Pandemic Response – Wearing of Face Coverings

The State of Rhode Island, like other states around the country, has begun to see a notable increase in COVID-19 cases driven by the highly contagious Delta variant. To slow the spread of COVID-19 and reduce infections, § 2(A)(2) of Executive Order 2021-04 is hereby superseded pursuant to the authority vested in me by G.L. 1956 § 8-15-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, and the following order is issued in its place to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the Judiciary’s employee’s and court users.

All persons entering a judicial building shall be required to wear a face covering or mask, regardless of vaccination status. All employees must wear a face covering or mask in any entry, exit, and common areas of the buildings, including, but not limited to reception, hallways, restrooms, breakrooms, elevators, and stairways. At the discretion of the judicial officer presiding on each case, a witness or attorney may remove his/her face covering or mask while testifying or addressing the court, provided physical distancing of at least three (3) feet between the speaker and any other person can be maintained at all times.

Entered as an Executive Order this 13th day of August 2021.

BY ORDER

/s/
Paul A. Suttell
Chief Justice