

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

IN RE:  
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE  
EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES  
CREATED BY COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER 2022-02

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2022, the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut (the “District Court”) entered a General Order Regarding Court Operations Under the Exigent Circumstances Created by COVID-19 (the “Order”) rescinding the facemask requirement for all individuals in courthouse hallways, courtrooms, and jury assembly and deliberation rooms, the provisions of which are attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, this Bankruptcy Court will adopt and incorporate the provisions of Exhibit A. ACCORDINGLY, it is hereby

ORDERED: This Order supersedes all prior General Orders respecting the wearing of masks; and it is further

ORDERED: Effective immediately, the provisions of the District Court’s Order apply to the court spaces used by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut at all of its locations, including the New Haven Division located on the 18th floor of the Connecticut Financial Center at 157 Church Street, New Haven, Connecticut; and it is further

ORDERED: The wearing of a mask in a courtroom is permitted but not required, subject to the order of the presiding judge.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2022, at New Haven, Connecticut.

*Ann M. Nevins*  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge  
District of Connecticut



# EXHIBIT A

MAR 4 2022 PM3:23  
FILED - USDC - BPT - CT

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

IN RE:  
COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE EXIGENT  
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED BY COVID-19

GENERAL ORDER

WHEREAS, the Court continues to review its operations to identify measures that will help protect court employees and the public from the COVID-19 virus, while at the same time preserving its core mission of serving the public through the fair and impartial administration of justice;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has recently updated its guidance concerning the wearing of masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>);

WHEREAS, the CDC’s new guidance advises the adoption of mask-wearing practices based on the level of prevalence of COVID-19 in the community;

WHEREAS, according to current data published by the CDC, as well as data from other reputable sources, the District of Connecticut is currently experiencing a low level of COVID-19 (see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>; see also <https://www.covidactnow.org/us/connecticut-ct/>);

WHEREAS, when the COVID-19 level in the community is low, the CDC advises that the wearing of masks should be based on each individual’s personal preference, informed by that individual’s personal level of risk;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, **effective immediately and until further order of the Court**, that:

- 1) This order supersedes the General Order entered on August 2, 2021.
- 2) In courthouse hallways, individuals are not required to wear masks. Judges may require individuals to wear a mask when in their chambers.
- 3) In courtrooms and jury assembly and deliberation rooms, individuals are not required to wear masks unless the presiding judge orders otherwise. It may be necessary during

jury trials and other large gatherings for individual judges to impose mask orders because such proceedings often require individuals to sit together in close quarters for long periods of time.

- 4) Any person who wishes to wear a mask in any location in the courthouse may do so.

This order is based on the current levels of prevalence of the COVID-19 virus in the communities served by the Court. Should there be a significant change in the prevalence levels in those communities, the Court may revisit this order.

SO ORDERED:

Dated: March 4, 2022  
Bridgeport, CT

  
Stefan R. Underhill  
Chief United State District Judge