

In re:

ST. LOUIS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

**WHEREAS** following the declaration of the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the State of Missouri the Supreme Court of Missouri and this Court entered Orders to assist courts, the public, and the community to operate during those times when the conditions did not allow for regular and unlimited court operations, and

**WHEREAS** effective February 25, 2022 the Supreme Court of Missouri entered orders to rescind all of the previous Orders relating to limitations on and alterations to Court procedures necessitated by the pandemic, and

**WHEREAS** also effective on February 25, 2022 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published updated data categorizing each county in the United States according to the public's risk of COVID-19 transmission and occurrence and recommended community level prevention strategies, and

**WHEREAS** Saint Louis County in which the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit resides, has been classified by the CDC as a "yellow" or "medium" county with regard to community level prevention strategies, and

**WHEREAS** the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court remains dedicated to the provision of Judicial Services to the Community in a safe, effective and efficient manner consistent with the Constitution of the State of Missouri, and the United States, all Statutes of the State of Missouri, and all relevant case authority and the Rules of the Supreme Court, as well as all CDC and Saint Louis County Health Department guidelines, and

**THEREFORE** it is ordered, effective immediately that:

All persons admitted to the Saint Louis County Courthouse shall no longer be required to wear a face mask or covering, all such prior orders to the contrary are rescinded, and

It shall be recommended but not required that all persons entering the Saint Louis County Courthouse wear a face mask or covering, and

Judges, Court staff, attorney's, and litigants are encouraged to use all available technologies, including teleconferencing and video conferencing whenever practical and not prohibited by Constitutional or Statutory provisions, however as of **March 14, 2022** it shall be presumed that all court procedures are conducted in person unless instructed otherwise by the Court presiding over the case, and

any such remote proceedings shall be limited to non-evidentiary matters not requiring the administration of an Oath, unless such administration is specifically authorized by Statute or Court rule, and

Judges, and Court Staff shall be subject to Quarantine based on specific circumstance, and the guidelines of the CDC and Saint Louis County Department of Health, and all shall continue to report the occurrence of COVID-19 symptoms of themselves or family members to the appropriate authority. Staff shall report such occurrences to the Human Resources Department, and Judges shall report such occurrences to the Presiding Judge so that the Court may continue to conduct contact tracing of any such occurrences of COVID-19, and

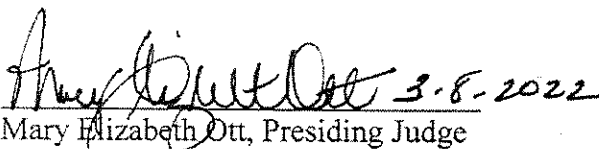
The Court will continue the enhanced cleaning and disinfection process undertaken within the Courthouse, and Juvenile Detention Facilities, and

The Municipal Divisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court shall each be governed by this Administrative Order, and like all divisions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Circuit may impose more restrictive requirements as the circumstances may require, and

All previous Orders of this Court that are inconsistent with this Order are rescinded and all previous Orders of this Court that are consistent or that do not conflict with this Order remain in full force and effect, and

This Administrative Order shall remain in effect until rescinded or superseded by subsequent order of the court.

SO ORDERED:

  
7 Mary Elizabeth Ott 3-8-2022  
Mary Elizabeth Ott, Presiding Judge

Date: 3-8-2022