

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HOUSTON COUNTY

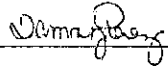
FILED IN OFFICE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
HOUSTON COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA



AUG 06 2021

ORDER

 Deputy Clerk

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 has over the past several weeks been steadily increasing. The period from July 12th to July 25<sup>th</sup> registered approximately 270 cases per 100,000 population. This was a 205 percent increase over the previous two week period. As of 10:00 am this date, there are approximately seventy active covid hospitalizations in Houston County, and the County has again returned to “substantial spread” status.

Given the rapid and precipitous increase in the number of covid cases, this Court finds it necessary and appropriate to mandate that any person attending the Superior Court of Houston County for a court proceeding wear a mask covering. This requirement pertains to all jurors, litigants, lawyers and members of the public who enter either a courtroom or the jury assembly room. The Court finds this restriction essential to the functioning of the adjudicative process; it will remain in effect for thirty days, after which the Court will consult with public health officials and determine whether another order should issue.

SO ORDERED, this sixth day of August, 2021.



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