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PIERCE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, STATE OF WASHINGTON

In Re

COURTROOM APPEARANCES  
(MASKING)

GENERAL ORDER  
NO. 2021-02

The Washington State Supreme Court and Pierce County District Court have issued multiple emergency orders in response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19 pandemic). Through emergency orders, the Washington State Supreme Court has specifically delegated to local courts the authority to adopt measures necessary to protect the health and safety of their communities and has directed courts to follow the most protective public health guidance applicable in their jurisdiction. Pursuant to the authority of Washington Supreme Court Order No. 257000-B-646 and prior related orders and the authority as the Presiding Judge of Pierce County District Court that the following shall be in effect, consistent with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department Directive dated August 18, 2021<sup>i</sup>,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that effective immediately and until further Order of the Pierce County District Court:

- 1 1. Masks are required in all public areas of the Pierce County District Court to
- 2 include all courtrooms, hallways, and the Pierce County District Court
- 3 Customer Service Office (Room 239), regardless of vaccination status.
- 4
- 5 2. Social Distancing in the courtrooms is not required but encouraged.
- 6
- 7 3. All previous Emergency General Orders not inconsistent with this Order
- 8 remain in full force and effect.
- 9
- 10 4. Pierce County District Court remains open.

11 The public is encouraged to communicate with Pierce County District Court as  
12 follows:

- 13 a. By Calling: 253-798-7487
- 14 b. Using live chat: <https://piercecounitywa.gov/101/District-Court>
- 15 c. By email: [PCDISTCRT1@piercecounitywa.gov](mailto:PCDISTCRT1@piercecounitywa.gov)

16 Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.

17  
18  
19 /s/ Jeanette Lineberry  
20 Jeanette Lineberry, Presiding Judge

21  
22 <sup>i</sup> Attached and herein incorporated by reference

## HEALTH DIRECTIVE 2021-01

### **A Health DIRECTIVE of the Director of Health and Health Officer of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department relating to the wearing of face coverings to control the COVID-19 pandemic in Pierce County**

#### FINDINGS

**Whereas**, on February 29, 2020, Governor Inslee proclaimed a state of emergency within the state of Washington due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**Whereas**, the COVID-19 disease, caused by a virus that spreads easily from person to person which may result in serious illness or death and has been classified by the World Health Organization as a worldwide pandemic, has broadly spread throughout Washington State and is a significant health risk to all citizens of Pierce County, especially members of our most vulnerable populations; and

**Whereas**, in recent months the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus has spread throughout the country, including Pierce County; the Delta variant spreads more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19; an increase in the number of cases will put more strain on healthcare resources, lead to more hospitalizations, and potentially more deaths; and

**Whereas**, As of August 16, 2021, Pierce County has experienced are 57,753 cases and 639 deaths and our 14-day case rate per 100,000 is 379.6; and

**Whereas**, as of August 13, 2021, despite the widespread availability of the vaccine, 46.9% of all residents in Pierce County and 56.1% of those 12+ years are fully vaccinated; and

**Whereas**, the novel coronavirus 2019 (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19 has led to over 57,000 reported cases and 639 deaths in Pierce County since January 2020; and

**Whereas**, a fifth wave of increasing COVID-19 transmission has been underway since approximately July 1, 2021, leading to a 589% increase in reported cases over the past five weeks, arriving at a 14-day case rate of 379 per 100,000 residents; and

**Whereas**, this case rate is above the threshold for “high transmission” as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

**Whereas**, vaccination against COVID-19 in Pierce County has been underway since December 2020 and 47% of the population is now fully vaccinated; and

**Whereas**, approximately 300,000 Pierce County residents  $\geq 12$  years of age remain unvaccinated despite widespread availability of vaccine for several months; and

**Whereas**, approximately 145,000 Pierce County children  $< 12$  years of age remain unvaccinated due to their ineligibility for vaccination at this time; and

**Whereas**, severely immunosuppressed individuals in the community have a reduced response to vaccine and remain vulnerable to severe disease due to COVID-19; and

**Whereas**, COVID-19 spreads from person to person primarily through inhalation of air carrying very small droplets and aerosol particles that contain infectious virus; and

**Whereas**, the more transmissible delta strain of COVID-19 now accounts for virtually all transmission occurring in Pierce County; and

**Whereas**, occasional breakthrough infections do occur among fully vaccinated individuals; and

**Whereas**, use of well fitting, multi-layer cloth face coverings or medical procedure masks has been demonstrated to reduce 1) generation of virus-transmitting aerosols from contagious individuals and 2) inhalation of virus transmitting aerosols by the wearer; and

**Whereas**, the CDC recommends all persons in high transmission communities like Pierce County wear masks when present in public indoor spaces—regardless of vaccination status; and

**Whereas**, the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's most recent COVID-19 Results Briefing for Washington State on August 5, 2021, projected that rapid adoption of universal masking coverage could prevent 1,500 cumulative excess deaths due to COVID-19 between now and December 1, 2021, in Washington State; and

**Whereas**, on July 26, 2021, the Local Health Officer joined other regional counties' health officers in recommending face coverings in public indoor spaces; and

**Whereas**, reported cases and hospitalizations continue to increase both statewide and in Pierce County; and

**Whereas**, Pierce County's hospital intensive care units collectively are operating at  $\geq 90\%$  maximum capacity with little additional reserve to absorb a greater surge of COVID-19 hospitalizations; and

**Whereas**, Washington State law, RCW 70.05.070(2), (3), requires and empowers the Local Health Officer to take such action as is necessary to maintain health and to control and prevent the spread of any contagious or infectious diseases within the jurisdiction; and

**Whereas**, state regulation, WAC 246-100-036, requires the Local Health Officer, when necessary, to institute disease control measures as the Local Health Officer deems necessary based on his, her, or their professional judgment, current standards of practice, and the best available medical and scientific information; and

**Whereas**, based upon the preceding, the Local Health Officer hereby find that: Use of face coverings for everyone  $\geq 5$  years of age within indoor public spaces is reasonable and necessary in Pierce County to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission until the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department confirms that the COVID-19 risk to Pierce County residents is substantially reduced based on considerations that include but may not be limited to: COVID-19 disease rates declining to low levels of community transmission as defined by the CDC; COVID-19 hospitalizations and death rates stabilizing at low levels; a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine being authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in children 5 years through 11 years of age; now, therefore

### DIRECTIVE

As authorized by RCW 70.05.070, and as a result of the above-noted situation, I, Anthony L-T Chen, M.D., M.P.H., Director of Health and Health Officer of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, hereby direct as follows:

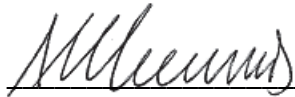
1. Everyone  $\geq 5$  years of age in Pierce County should wear a face covering within indoor public spaces, or outdoor setting where physical distancing is not possible regardless of vaccination status. Children age two, three, or four years old, while exempt from this official directive, are also recommended to wear a face covering with the assistance and close supervision of an adult in accordance with the current Order (20-03.3) of the Washington State Secretary of Health.
2. Everyone in correctional facilities, homeless shelters, schools, childcare, public transportation, and health care settings, including doctors' offices, long-term care, and hospitals should, regardless of vaccination status, also wear a well-fitted face covering in accord with state requirements already in place.
3. This DIRECTIVE applies to indoor spaces that are open to the public, including retail, grocery stores, government buildings, and other businesses and places where members of the public can enter freely.
4. This DIRECTIVE does not apply to indoor non-public spaces, including businesses, offices, and other places of employment with limited access. Employers should continue to follow

current guidance and requirements from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries on worker safety.

I strongly urge all people in Pierce County to voluntarily comply with this DIRECTIVE, and likewise direct all businesses that are open to the public, including grocery and other retail establishments, to continue implementing policies and practices to ensure that their customers and employees wear face coverings in order to protect the health of their customers, workers, and the community.

This DIRECTIVE shall be effective on August 18, 2021 and will remain in effect until the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department confirms that COVID-19 disease rates have declined to low levels of transmission as defined by the CDC or until this DIRECTIVE is otherwise rescinded.

Directed by:



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Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH  
Director of Health

Date: August 18, 2021