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ORIGINAL IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

MAR 03 2022

Annetta D. Stembridge, Clerk
Superior & State Court
Douglas County, GA

IN RE: THIRD REVISED ORDER
REGARDING COVID 19 COURT
PROCEDURES FOR THE DOUGLAS
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ORDER OF THE COURT

This court has been monitoring the status of the Covid 19 pandemic in Douglas County on a daily basis, to balance the need for both public safety and public access to the legal system. After consultation with court officials, approval of Cobb-Douglas Public Health, and review of newly issued CDC guidelines, this court will revise the Covid 19 operating procedures for the public areas of the Douglas County Courthouse in accordance with same.

1. There will be no requirement for temperature checks upon entry as the court has been informed they do not operate as a reliable indicator for Covid 19. Instead, all persons who have symptoms of Covid 19 or a positive test until medically cleared cannot enter the building. These symptoms are fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, repeated

shaking, headache, loss of sense of taste, smell, or sore throat. This is
A PARTIAL change from the previous order.

2. Masks are optional to enter the courthouse and within public spaces of the courthouse, including courtrooms. The public is encouraged to consult their healthcare provider as to whether or not their unique circumstances suggest a mask should be worn in public. Elected officials and department heads continue to have the discretion to require masks within or outside their office space for their staff.

This is a CHANGE from the previous order.

3. Social Distance requirements are reduced from six feet to three feet in public areas of the courthouse. This means that all courtrooms may now accommodate jury trials. This is a CHANGE from the previous order.
4. The respective judicial officers are encouraged to continue court proceedings by videoconference when possible; but same is not required. Where in person proceedings occur, social distance of at least 3 feet should be maintained. This is a CHANGE from the previous order.

This order is consistent with CDC guidelines, consultation with Cobb-Douglas Public Health, similar orders being enacted by Chief Judges around the state, and takes into account that Douglas County is currently and has been an area of

MEDIUM Covid 19 transmission. The court informs the public that it will monitor the Douglas County Covid 19 Community Level on a daily basis. Members of the community may see what the court sees by following this link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Should the community level for Douglas County reach a HIGH transmission status for a period of 5 consecutive days, this court will revise its order to revert back to previous more restrictive court procedures.

This order is issued pursuant to directive of the Supreme Court of Georgia regarding the authority of Chief Judges to establish same, and OCGA Section 38-3-61 and 38-3-62. It shall become effective on Monday, March 14, 2022 to allow county officials preparation and time to communicate same to the public.

SO ORDERED this 3rd day of March, 2022



WILLIAM H. MCCLAIN, Chief Judge
Douglas Judicial Circuit

JUDGE'S DISTRIBUTION LIST:

SHERIFF TIM POUNDS

CHAIRPERSON DR. ROMONA JACKSON JONES

DEP. COUNTY ADM FREDERICK PERRY

DEP. COUNTY ADM TIFFANY STEWART STANLEY

RICK MARTIN, COMM DIRECTOR

JUDGE CYNTHIA ADAMS

CHIEF JUDGE EDDIE BARKER

JUDGE BRIAN FORTNER

CHIEF JUDGE MICHELLE HARRISON

JUDGE TALIA NURSE

CHIEF MAGISTRATE SUSAN CAMP

MAGISTRATE BARBARA CALDWELL

JUDGE CHRISTINA PETERSON

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DALIA RACINE

SOLICITOR GENERAL SONYA COMPTON

CLERK ANNETTA STEMBRIDGE

PUBLIC DEFENDER MONICA MYLES

TEE BARNES, CLERK OF THE GEORGIA SUPREME COURT

CYNTHIA CLANTON, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS