

## **EXPIRATION OF COURTHOUSE MASK MANDATE**

On July 27, 2021, the CDC updated its COVID guidance recommending that everyone wear a mask in indoor public settings in areas of “substantial” and “high” transmission, regardless of vaccination status. Hamilton County reached a level of “high transmission” in early August.

Effective August 11, 2021 the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, General Division and the Hamilton County Municipal Court (the “Courts”) ordered that anyone entering the Hamilton County Courthouse must wear a facial covering/mask in all common areas. Wearing a mask in a courtroom may be required by a judge.

The Courts’ mask mandate was to remain in effect until the level of community transmission in Hamilton County was no longer “high” as indicated by the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker. Hamilton County is no longer in the “high” indicator, and has been consistently in the “substantial” indicator for the past several days. County level data for community transmission rates is available on the CDC’s website: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>.

As a result, the August 11, 2021 Joint Administrative Order has expired, and facial coverings are no longer required in **common areas**. This applies to all Court Facilities. For purposes of this order, “Court Facilities” includes the Hamilton County Courthouse at 1000 Main Street (Courthouse), and the Common Pleas, General Division and Municipal Court employees who work in the Hamilton County Justice Center at 1000 Sycamore Street (Justice Center). With regard to any Municipal Court employees or employees of the General Division of Common Pleas who work at 800 Broadway, or any person doing business with such employees, while in that building, those individuals shall follow the directives of the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court Divisions.

However, individual judges may continue to require that facial coverings/masks be worn in their courtroom at their discretion.

Additionally, individuals who wish to wear a facial covering for personal health reasons shall be permitted to do so even where masks are not required, even in a particular courtroom. However, individuals may be asked by a judge to remove their face covering if necessary for hearing purposes.