

May 21, 2021

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

By Deputy Clerk



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

IN RE: MASK MANDATE IN THE §
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS §
UNDER THE EXIGENT §
CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED §
BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC §

GENERAL ORDER NO. 2021-9


To provide uniform and certain requirements for those working in and coming to the United States courthouses within the Southern District of Texas, everyone in the Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Houston, Laredo, and Victoria Division courthouses, including employees, members of the public, jurors and prospective jurors, lawyers, litigants, contractors, family members, witnesses, and court observers are still required to wear masks in hallways and other public areas. Masks inside courtrooms are at the discretion of each presiding judicial officer. The U.S. Marshal's Service will exclude from the courthouses anyone who does not wear a mask in public areas. Those coming to the courthouses should provide their own masks but may be provided a mask upon entering.

The Galveston and McAllen Divisions will enter separate orders regarding the mask policies within their courthouses.

While the general masking requirement is division dependent, courthouse employees in all divisions within the Southern District of Texas may not work with jury panels and juries unless they are vaccinated and masked.

This order remains in effect until the court orders otherwise.

ORDERED this the 21st day of May 2021.



LEE H. ROSENTHAL
CHIEF JUDGE