

## **South Central Judicial District Mask and Social Distancing Order: August 25, 2021**

The Court is and has been fully operational using a mix of remote hearings and socially distanced in person court appearances.

The CDC/ND DOH guidelines currently indicate fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a mask or social distance in most settings, unless the setting is a crowded indoor setting such as planes and buses.

Due to the Delta variant, local health officials are requesting the public to be vigilant by wearing face coverings and to be vaccinated.

SCJD will continue to operate with a mix of remote and socially distanced in person hearings.

Jury Trials are the most problematic issue the Court faces in keeping the public and staff safe, while assuring justice is done. Since being allowed to reopen, the Court has successfully conducted numerous jury trials, to include high profile, extended duration trials. Success has required face coverings as facilities are obviously indoors and do not allow sufficient space for appropriate social distancing.

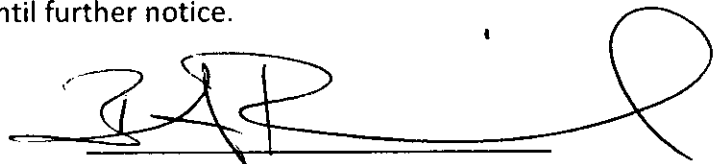
The Court is fully aware the public is summoned to the courthouses in the district and do not choose to participate in jury trials or appear in Court.

In the interest of public safety, all persons entering courtrooms will be required to wear a face covering or face mask as described in CDC regulations. Such a precaution will allow the Court to continue to operate, provide justice to court participants, and to protect the safety of the public, as well as staff during this health emergency.

The Court will also continue to require social distancing as facilities allow.

Each judge will monitor their individual courtrooms and will determine if persons may be allowed to remove face coverings when needed to testify or address the Court.

These protective measures remain in place until further notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Romanick', with a long horizontal line extending to the right and a large loop at the end.

Bruce A. Romanick, Presiding Judge