

**From:** [Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr.](#)  
**To:** [Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr.](#)  
**Subject:** Update from Chief Justice Minton 3-22-22: Supreme Court rescinds 3 COVID-19 orders as pandemic lessens hold on Kentucky  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2022 12:23:37 PM



CDC:

[COVID-19](#) • Kentucky Public Health: [COVID-19](#) • KCOJ: [COVID-19 and the Courts](#)

### Update for March 22, 2022

Kentucky Court of Justice Community:

### Supreme Court rescinds 3 COVID-19 orders as pandemic lessens hold on Kentucky

It's been over two years since the COVID-19 pandemic first impacted our lives and it's uplifting to see a return to normal as case numbers and hospitalizations decrease across the commonwealth. The Centers for Disease Control recently updated its guidance regarding COVID-19 prevention measures based on the [COVID-19 Community Levels](#). Under this guidance, decisions regarding appropriate COVID-19 precautions should be made based on each community's level of infection and hospital admissions.

Considering this change in CDC guidance, the Supreme Court has entered [Administrative Order 2022-12](#), Kentucky Court of Justice Response to COVID-19 Emergency, which rescinds three of its previous orders relating to COVID-19:

- [Administrative Order 2020-65](#), Custody and Parenting Time Orders
- [Administrative Order 2021-27](#), Kentucky Court of Justice Response to COVID-19 Emergency: Health and Safety Requirements
- [Administrative Order 2021-28](#), Kentucky Court of Justice Response to COVID-19 Emergency: Court Proceedings

[Administrative Order 2022-12](#) clarifies that the chief circuit judge in each circuit maintains the authority to require the use of facial coverings within a judicial facility, especially if a county's "community level" increases. Similarly, individual judges can require the use of masks in their courtrooms or in specific instances, and circuit court clerks can require mask usage among employees and visitors to their offices.

Judges are encouraged to continue using remote technology to conduct proceedings when appropriate. Judges should also continue to refer landlords, tenants and homeowners in foreclosure to resources for financial assistance, such as [Kentucky's Healthy at Home Eviction Relief Fund](#) and [Kentucky's Homeowner Assistance Fund](#).

Although health experts seem to agree that another wave of COVID-19 is likely to hit the United States at some point, I'm hopeful that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. I'm grateful to all of you for your cooperation and perseverance during this challenging time for the court system, and I appreciate your dedication to the health and safety of yourself, your co-workers and the public.

If you have any questions about court protocols, please email [COVIDCourtConcerns@kycourts.net](mailto:COVIDCourtConcerns@kycourts.net).

John D. Minton, Jr.  
Chief Justice of Kentucky  
Capitol Building  
700 Capital Avenue, Room 231  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Telephone 502.564.4162

### Kentucky Court of Justice Confidentiality Notice

This message and/or attachment is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or proprietary work product. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized employee, agent or representative of the intended recipient, do not read, copy, retain or disseminate this message or any attachment. Do not forward this message and attachment without the express written consent of the sender. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete all copies of the message and any attachment. Transmission or misdelivery shall not constitute waiver of any applicable legal privilege.

