

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

CONTACT

BENJAMIN T. RADA

Communications Program Manager

brada@scscourt.org

(408) 334-9236



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The Santa Clara County Superior Court Updates COVID-19 Pandemic Health and Safety Orders

The Santa Clara County Superior Court has updated the following COVID-19 pandemic health and safety orders:

Eating In The Courthouse: On Wednesday, June 16, 2021, Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner rescinded the order that prohibited eating in courthouses. Eating and drinking in public areas, staff breakrooms and offices, and courtrooms is permitted as authorized by court administration or judicial officers. Unvaccinated court users are cautioned to follow California Department of Public Health requirements.

Courthouse Access: On Thursday, June 17, 2021, Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner rescinded the June 15, 2020 order, which restricted access to any and all courthouses to those persons appearing at a court hearing or conducting official business with the Court, effective Monday, June 21, 2021. All persons are permitted entry into the courthouses, subject to any court-ordered COVID-19 protocols.

Social Distancing And Face Coverings In The Courthouse: On Thursday, June 24, 2021, Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner rescinded the Court's prior orders requiring social distancing of at least six (6) feet. Social distancing between persons inside the courthouse is no longer required.

It remains an order of the court that all persons, including court staff and judicial officers, who enter the courthouses must wear a face covering in all public areas of the court and shared workspaces. Any person without a face covering may be denied entry to the courthouse or a courtroom. Judicial officers have discretion in their individual courtrooms to allow persons, including themselves, to remove their face coverings for periods of time for purposes such as ensuring the court reporter and/or electronic recording device can clearly report or record the proceedings and any other communication that occurs in the courtroom. Any person who refuses to wear a face covering may request an exemption from this Order.

"June 15, 2021, was a milestone moment for Santa Clara County, as our State moved Beyond the Blueprint for California and reopened the economy. Despite significant progress and favorable vaccination rates, both the County and State remain under a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the Court continues to employ protective measures to prevent, mitigate, and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Although some of the Court's COVID-19 preventative safety orders have been rescinded or modified, at this time, with consideration of the Emergency Temporary Standards adopted June 17, 2021, by the Standards Board of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA), it remains an order that all persons who enter the courthouse must wear a face covering as indicated in the June 24th Order of the Court," said Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner.