



Lawrence K. Marks
Chief Administrative Judge

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June 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: All UCS Judges and Personnel

FROM: Lawrence K. Marks *LM*

SUBJECT: Revised Mask Policy

With widely available vaccines and continuing good news surrounding coronavirus infection rates, I am pleased to announce that we are continuing our incremental but deliberate path to normal operations by revising our mask policy for judges and employees.

Last month, New York State adopted the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that lifted the mask requirement for fully vaccinated individuals in most situations. New York State continues to require that unvaccinated individuals wear masks in indoor settings.

Starting next week, we will implement a program that eliminates our mask requirement for fully vaccinated judges and employees in private areas of our courthouses and other facilities. The program will be completely voluntary and will involve a simple online enrollment process. Once that process has been completed and the participant receives a program identification card, the participant will no longer be required to wear a mask in private courthouse areas. Judges and staff who choose not to participate as well as those who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear a mask in all areas of our courthouses.

While we will be able to ensure that judges and staff who are participating in this program meet the CDC's requirement for relaxed mask usage, we cannot ascertain that for other court users. Therefore, to protect our staff and all court users, we will continue to require that all non-UCS users wear masks in all areas of our court facilities, and even participants in the revised mask program wear masks in public areas of our facilities.

A memorandum will be distributed next week with details of the program including the enrollment process.