

Whatcom County

Superior Court

311 Grand Avenue # 301
Bellingham, Washington 98225
(360) 778-5560



Judges

Honorable David E. Freeman
Honorable Lee Grochmal
Honorable Evan P. Jones
Honorable Robert E. Olson

Director

David Reynolds,

Commissioners

Honorable Angela A. Cuevas
Honorable Leon F. Henley, Jr.
Honorable Jonathan Richardson
Honorable Ann Vetter-Hansen

SUPERIOR COURT PRESS RELEASE MARCH 11, 2022 FACE COVERING GUIDANCE

Pursuant to information provided in Governor Jay Inslee's press conference on February 28, 2022, Whatcom County Superior Court plans to end its court-wide face covering requirement on March 12, 2022.

Face coverings in Superior Court controlled offices and common spaces will be optional, however, everyone who enters the Superior Court is encouraged to wear facial coverings for their own protection and the protection of others.

While facial coverings are no longer mandatory in Superior Court, there are the following exceptions:

- Jury trials, during which all participants, including jurors, judicial officers, court staff, parties, witnesses and the public must wear facial coverings at all times;
- Whenever determined to be necessary by a judicial officer.

All participants to court proceedings **should bring a facial covering to the courthouse for all hearings, in case it is determined by a judicial officer that one is necessary.** The court will have limited supplies of masks available for those who need one.

Children under 5 years of age, people with medical or mental health conditions or disabilities that prevent them from wearing a facial covering are not required to wear a facial covering at any time.

The court will monitor guidance from our stakeholders to determine if face coverings would need to be reinstated on a court-wide basis.