

**Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division
Hamilton County, Ohio**

HAMILTON COUNTY
JUVENILE COURT
2022 FEB 28 PM 12:45

Hamilton County Juvenile Court : **Case#: MJ624**
: **Order Amending MJ Entries**
587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592,
609 and 611

The Hamilton County Juvenile Court took proactive steps to maintain essential functions of the Court while mitigating the risk for infection and spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease during this State of Emergency. In developing and expanding the Court's Plan for Operations throughout the pandemic and as the vaccine became widely available to the public, the Court carefully considered the guidance issued by the Center for Disease Control [hereinafter CDC], as well as consulted and collaborated with key stakeholders including, but not limited to: Prosecutor's Office; Public Defender's Office; Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services; ProKids; the Supreme Court of Ohio; Hamilton County Public Health; Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; social service agencies; schools; treatment providers; and other local/state agencies. The Court prioritized the safety and well-being of the families and children we serve, our workforce and the public appearing in our Court.

Effective August 30, 2021, the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners imposed a mask mandate in all county-owned buildings and spaces, regardless of vaccination status. This mandate was imposed as a result of the CDC Guidelines and the high transmission rate reached in Hamilton County, Ohio in August of 2021. On August 27, 2021, an email communication was sent to all Juvenile Court staff regarding the new mask mandate imposed by the County.

On February 24, 2022, the General Division of the Court of Common Pleas issued a Memorandum noting the Joint Administrative Order issued August 11, 2021, expired and facial coverings are no longer required in common areas.

On February 24, 2022, the CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker for counties dropped the transmission rate for Hamilton County, Ohio from "high" to "substantial." On February 25, 2022, the CDC transitioned to a new paradigm to measure community risk for COVID-19 by now computing "COVID-19 Community Levels" using a mix of data sources that includes hospital capacity and the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals. In issuing the new guidelines the CDC notes the current high levels of vaccination and high levels of population immunity from both vaccinations and infections

have greatly reduced the risk for medically significant disease, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. On February 25, 2022, the CDC identified the community level of risk in Hamilton County, Ohio as "Medium." The CDC guidelines limit the recommendations for masks indoors in areas with "High" COVID-19 Community Levels but indicate people may choose to wear a mask at any time and people with symptoms, a positive test or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

In an effort to further serve our community and in accordance with the most updated guidance from the CDC and Ohio Public Health, the Court makes the following amended orders:

Face Coverings:

Hamilton County Juvenile Court located at 800 Broadway and the Assessment Center located at 264 William Howard Taft

Effective March 1, 2022, Juvenile Court employees or other persons entering 800 Broadway to access Juvenile Court proceedings and services are **not required** to wear a facial covering/mask. Any person who wants to wear a mask or facial covering is permitted to do so. The Court will continue to provide masks for any person who wants one and does not have their own facial covering. Juvenile Court employees shall continue to wear masks/facial coverings when in a client's home, in a school or community agency that requires masks/facial coverings, during the transport of a child, and anywhere in the field where employees are meeting with children to conduct business.

Youth Center located at 2020 Auburn Avenue

All Youth Center employees and any other persons entering the Youth Center **are required** to wear a facial covering/mask. The Ohio Department of Health's Director's Order signed May 17, 2021, which rescinded the vast majority of COVID-19-related health orders, states, "This order does not apply to jails, prison facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities" Due to the congregate care nature of a detention facility and the fact that most residents are children who may not have had access to the vaccine, the Court is implementing protocols to protect the safety and well-being of the residents and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the facility.

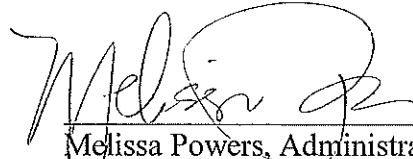
In an effort to reduce the risk of exposure during transport or when in contact with the public at 800 Broadway, court proceedings for Youth Center residents will be held remotely or in-person at the Youth Center as indicated in the Court's entries and notices.

The Court will monitor health orders and CDC guidance related to youth, schools, and congregate care facilities and will consult with public health officials and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to determine when it is appropriate and safe to modify the current protocols.

Any other orders pursuant to MJ 609 and 611 not addressed or amended herein remain in full force and effect.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

2/28/22
Date


Melissa Powers, Administrative Judge