

**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF GAINESVILLE
STATE OF GEORGIA**

*In Re: COVID-19 Pandemic
Date: August 1, 2021*

**TEMPORARY SAFETY MEASURES REGARDING OPERATIONS FOR
GAINESVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT**

The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused Court operations to modify the manner in which this Court conducts all aspects of the Court's operations. The Court operations have been ongoing with defined limitation and restrictions as prescribed by the Supreme Court of Georgia.

The Covid-19 disease continues to pose great risk to public health. In the past weeks, the reported transmissions have increased as indicated by the Department of Public Health statistics regarding the rising case numbers, increase in positive test results, transmission rates in our City, and local hospitalizations cause great concern for the safety of those individuals involved with our court system.

As such, **IT IS THE ORDER OF THIS COURT :**

1. The Court shall continue to operate under the guidelines proscribed under this Court's prior Emergency Order utilizing these following provisions:

A. Any Defendant wishing to close their case may close their case by paying the fine using the Court's online system found on the city court website <http://www.gainesville.org>. Each fine paid may result in the reporting of the closure of the case being entered on the Defendant's criminal history, driving history on any reportable moving violation, as applicable. Alternately, if the Defendant wishes to negotiate an alternate charge to which they wish to plead guilty or nolo contendere, the Defendant may contact the Clerk of Court by telephone at 770-531-2668 or email mcourt@gainesville.org.

B. Any Defendant who provided and accurate contact information may receive a call from the Court in an attempt to reach a resolution of their

pending matter. Court staff will continue to seek methods of all Defendant's with pending matters to provide the information regarding the availability of the online system described above.

C. Any individual requesting a trial will have a trial conducted in a compliance with this Order and any modifications to this Order. The Court retains the right to re-schedule matters assigned trial dates on a needed basis as the limitations of court operations are affected by the increase in COVID-19 cases in our community.

BEGINNING AUGUST 3, 2021:

Current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that ALL people wear masks in public settings regardless of vaccine status.

THEREFORE:

1. All personnel and court staff will be **REQUIRED** to wear face coverings over their mouth and nose upon entering the Municipal Court building at all times while in the building. A face covering includes but is not limited to a cloth or disposable mask which covers the mouth and nose of the individual. No covering shall include masks with holes or vents. Proper use of the face covering is required.

2. All persons entering the Municipal Court building shall be **REQUIRED** to wear face coverings over their mouth and nose while in the Courtroom or when speaking with court staff, or entering the Courtroom.

3. All inmates shall be provided face coverings before entering the Municipal Court building and the face coverings shall remain over their mouth and nose while in the Municipal Court building and Courtroom.

4. The Court staff shall provide a face covering and make available face coverings upon any person entering the Municipal Court building.

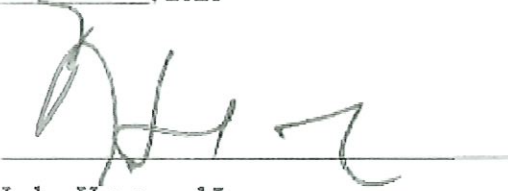
5. The court staff shall post and place clearly visible signs requiring such use at all appropriate entrances.

6. The Court shall continue to provide other preventative measures including, but not limited to:

- * Making hand sanitizer stations widely available;
- * Disinfecting high-volume public areas daily;
- * Displaying signs in restroom encouraging good hygiene and the washing of hands;
- * Requiring those individuals with obvious signs of the virus, to re-schedule their court date.

Failure to comply with these provisions shall subject a person to an immediate contempt hearing before the Municipal Court Judge.

SO ORDERED this is 3 day of Aug, 2021



Judge Hammond Law,
Gainesville Municipal Court

CC: Gainesville Police Department, via email

Posted: Courthouse Entrance and Cities Website



