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**State of Georgia
Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit**

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LOWNDES & THOMAS COUNTIES**

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NOTICE

TO: Courthouse Security and Sheriffs in Southern Judicial Circuit
Clerks of Court, Southern Judicial Circuit

FROM: Chief Judge Richard M. Cowart
Judge James E. Hardy
Judge Brian A. McDaniel
Judge James L. Prine
Judge Gregory A. Voyles

DATE: October 28, 2021

RE: **Procedures for the Southern Judicial Circuit - COVID-19
Face Mask Requirement**

Effective November 1, 2021, the face mask requirement instituted by this Court in the beginning of the pandemic will be amended again. All employees, attorneys, witnesses, spectators, and visitors entering the courthouses in the circuit will be required to wear a mask unless they have been fully vaccinated with any of the CDC approved COVID-19 vaccines.

All employees, attorneys, witnesses, spectators, and visitors should still maintain social distancing in each courtroom and all common areas of the courthouse.

Any elected official in the courthouse that wants to continue the face mask requirement for their offices or courtrooms shall be responsible for the distribution of the face masks.

During jury trials all attorneys, witnesses, parties, and spectators who are attending court shall be screened before entering the Courthouse or Judicial Annex, including taking temperatures as previously implemented.

The Sheriff's office will not be responsible for providing masks, but the Court will attempt to have some available for pro se parties and those not fully vaccinated. Please continue to have hand sanitizer available for parties to use before entering the Courtroom.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with these procedures.

All judges concur.