

**COVID-19 MASK ORDER
WAYCROSS JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CIRCUIT-WIDE ORDER OF FEBRUARY 17, 2022**

The Superior Court Judges of the Waycross Judicial Circuit have continued to monitor the status of COVID-19 in the six counties comprising the circuit. The new variant, Omicron, appears to be “milder” than previous variants. Vaccination rates have increased, varying roughly between 24%-40% throughout the circuit. Sufficient time has passed for persons desiring vaccination to have done so, and some persons are obtaining booster vaccines. Also, there is some degree of immunity from antibodies; however, this number is not readily quantifiable. The Omicron surge has declined drastically in the last few days throughout the Waycross Circuit.

Based on the above factors, the Court’s order of August 9, 2021, particularly dealing with masks, will expire effective immediately. Safety procedures will be left to the informed discretion of each superior court judge. As an example, any time large numbers of persons are in court, i.e. jury selection, status conferences, etc., the trial judge may require masks, social distancing, or such other steps as is deemed appropriate.

The Judges of the Superior Court very much appreciate the understanding and cooperation of the Bar, our Clerk’s offices, the D.A.’s office, the P.D.’s office, the Sheriff’s offices, the Probation Department, and that of the public.

So ordered this the 17th day of February, 2022.



Dwayne H. Gillis, Chief Judge
Waycross Judicial Circuit