

FILED

MAR 02 2022

ANGIE SPARKS, Clerk of District Court
By *[Signature]* Deputy Clerk

**MONTANA FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
AND
BROADWATER COUNTY**

IN RE: COVID-19 COURTROOM
OPERATIONS

Cause No. DV-2022-1

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

To protect the safety and well-being of employees, litigants, potential jurors, and visitors to the Courts, this Court has adopted a series of administrative orders governing COVID-19 mitigation protocols in the First Judicial District, the most recent order of which was issued October 18, 2021. Given the current positive trends in infections and hospitalizations, the widespread availability of vaccines, and the large incidence of prior COVID-19 infection in the community, the Court concludes that at present, mandatory COVID-19 protocols are no longer necessary on a district-wide basis.

Accordingly,

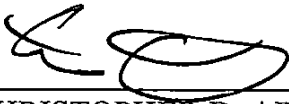
IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Court's October 18, 2021, Administrative Order is

VACATED.

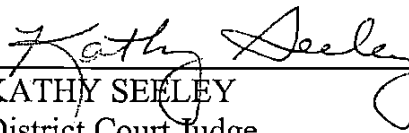
1 2. Each judge of this Court retains discretion to implement
2 whatever COVID-19 mitigation measures they deem appropriate in their own
3 courtroom and during any proceedings over which they preside.

4 **ORDERED** this 2nd day of March 2022.

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7 _____
8 CHRISTOPHER D. ABBOTT
9 Chief District Court Judge

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8 MIKE MENAHAN
9 District Court Judge

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11 _____
12 MICHAEL F. McMAHON
13 District Court Judge

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10 _____
11 KATHY SEELEY
12 District Court Judge

13 cc: Leo Gallagher, Lewis and Clark County Attorney, (hand-delivered)
14 Jania Hatfield, Acting Broadwater County Attorney, (via email)
15 Suzanne Seburn, Office of Public Defender, (via email)
16 Leo C. Dutton, Lewis and Clark County Sheriff, (hand-delivered)
17 Wynn Meehan, Broadwater County Sheriff, (via email)
18 Angie Sparks, Lewis and Clark County Clerk of Court, (hand-delivered)
19 Val Hornsveld, Broadwater County Clerk of Court, (via email)
20 Honorable Mike McGrath, Montana Supreme Court Chief Justice, (via
21 email)
22 Honorable Kirk Flynn, Broadwater County Justice of Peace/City of
23 Townsend Judge, (via email)
24 Honorable Michael G. Swingley, Lewis and Clark County Justice of
25 Peace, (hand-delivered)
 Honorable Mark V. Piskolich, Lewis and Clark County Justice of Peace,
(hand-delivered)
 Honorable Anne Peterson, Helena Municipal Court Judge, (via email)
 Montana Bar Association, (via email)
 Montana Judges Association, (via email)