

IN THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

**ORDER OF THE HARRIS COUNTY LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
EXTENDING THE ORDER ON ADDITIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

The Emergency Orders of the Texas Supreme Court confirm the judiciary’s authority to take reasonable actions to avoid exposing court proceedings and participants to the threat of COVID-19. The Supreme Court’s Orders acknowledge the judiciary’s broad inherent authority to control orderly proceedings in courtrooms, as confirmed by the Texas Attorney General Opinion KP-0322. Court proceedings, including jury service and in-person attendance at hearings and other court settings, involve groups of people in reasonably close contact.

In order to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, it is ORDERED that all individuals entering the following courthouses must wear a mask that covers both the nose and mouth while in the public areas of:

- The Harris County Civil Courthouse, 201 Caroline Street, Houston, Texas;
- The Harris County Criminal Justice Center, 1201 Franklin Street, Houston, Texas;
- The Harris County Juvenile Justice Center, 1200 Congress Street, Houston, Texas;
- The Harris County Family Law Center, 1115 Congress Street, Houston, Texas;
- Any auxiliary courthouse in Harris County, Texas; and
- Jury Assembly.

An individual who refuses to comply with this Order will be prohibited from entering the courthouse, an auxiliary courthouse or jury assembly.

This Order is effective on February 1, 2022 and remains in effect until April 1, 2022. This Order may be extended.

Signed: February 1, 2022


The Honorable Latosha Lewis Payne
Harris County Local Administrative Judge