

Dear Judges and Judicial Branch employees,

As you may know, Governor Ned Lamont on Friday, April 17, 2020, signed [Executive Order No. 7BB](#), requiring all of us to wear face coverings (or higher level protection) whenever we are in public and close contact is unavoidable. Here is a [link](#) to an e-mail he distributed today to state employees.

The order, which is effective tonight at 8:00, requires any person in a public place in Connecticut who is unable to or does not maintain a safe social distance of approximately six feet from every other person to cover their mouth and nose with a mask or cloth face-covering. This executive order also applies to our workplace.

As you know, Judge Bozzuto and I have worked to ensure that employees and judges on the front lines in our open courthouses, detention centers and open offices, have the personal protection equipment (PPE) they need to be safe when they come to work. This has been challenging, as we are competing for these scarce resources with many other entities including hospital workers, EMTs and state police. We have received PPE for the judges and employees on the front lines, and will continue to advocate and work to procure this resource.

For those of you who are reporting to work in judicial branch facilities but are not working in one of our open courthouses or detention centers, this executive order applies to you as well. If you are unable to maintain a safe social distance of approximately 6 feet from every other person, you will need to wear a mask at work. If you do not already have a mask, you may want to review [this guidance](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about how to wear and make a mask. The U.S. Surgeon General also provides [guidance](#) on how to make face coverings from things that you have around the house. If you do not have a mask and are otherwise unable to make your own mask, please contact your supervisor and arrangements will be made to provide you with a mask while at work. Also, please note that the Governor's Executive Order does not apply to anyone whose health or safety, due to a medical condition, would be compromised by wearing such a mask.

Additionally, please note that it is very important to continue social distancing, even if you are wearing a mask.

Judge Patrick L. Carroll III