



NEW YORK STATE
Unified Court System

OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION

LAWRENCE K. MARKS
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

JOHN W. MCCONNELL, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NANCY J. BARRY, ESQ.
CHIEF OF OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

August 18, 2020

To: Hon. George J. Silver
Hon. Vito C. Caruso

From: John W. McConnell
Nancy Barry

Re: Coronavirus – Vented Face Masks

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In light of recent guidance from the Centers for Disease control that “vented” face masks are an ineffective means of preventing spread of the coronavirus,¹ vented masks (Exh A) will no longer be permitted to be worn by court visitors or court personnel in courthouses or other court facilities, effective Monday, August 24, 2020.

Please distribute this memorandum as you deem appropriate. As always, thank you for your dedication and cooperation.

c: Administrative Judges
Chief Michael Magliano
Carolyn Grimaldi
Scott Murphy
Linda Dunlap Miller
District Executives
New York City Chief Clerks
County Clerks

¹ According to the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#>):

Masks with Exhalation Valves or Vents

The purpose of masks is to keep respiratory droplets from reaching others to aid with source control. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others. Therefore, CDC does not recommend using masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent.

See also, <https://gothamist.com/news/cdc-updates-its-face-mask-guidance-warns-against-using-vented-masks>.

EXHIBIT A

