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CNMI SUPREME COURT
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Judy Aldan

IN THE
SUPREME COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE COURT OPERATIONS AND PROCEEDINGS
IN RESPONSE TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

Supreme Court No. 2022-ADM-0010-MSC

COVID-19 ORDER NO. 19

¶ 1 On April 8, 2022, the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) announced that the CNMI is now in COVID-19 Community Level Low. This announcement, made due to high rates of vaccination and declining case counts, marks a shift from the “Medium” risk status that had previously been in effect. Under a “Low” risk designation, mandatory containment measures are substantially lessened, but the Task Force and CHCC continue to emphasize the value of masks, sanitary habits, and social distancing.

¶ 2 In light of this announcement, the Court finds it appropriate to adopt new policies compatible with the “Low” risk designation. Pursuant to the Supreme Court’s inherent and supervisory powers under Article IV, Sections 3 and 9 of the NMI Constitution, the Court ORDERS the following:

1. All Judiciary buildings and offices shall be fully open to the public.
2. All court staff and visitors who are not immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease, as determined by a healthcare provider, are encouraged to wear face masks based on personal preference.
3. All court proceedings shall be conducted in person unless the court approves remote proceedings.
4. Persons with apparent symptoms of COVID-19 such as a fever of over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or 38 degrees Celsius, severe cough, or shortness of breath may be prohibited from entering the facilities.

5. Previous COVID-19 orders issued In re Court Operations and Proceedings in Response to Novel Coronavirus Disease are hereby superseded.

SO ORDERED this 18th day of April, 2022.

/s/
ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
Chief Justice

/s/
JOHN A. MANGLOÑA
Associate Justice

/s/
PERRY B. INOS
Associate Justice