

Circuit Court Attendance Plan

Community Attendance

The court will consult community leadership and consider their response prior to planning travel to the community. The court party will travel to a community only if the court is confident that requirements for health and safety can be met, which may include community assistance with the provision of custodial services in accordance with the court's directives and at the court's expense.

Travel

All travel will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, YG directives, and policies of the transporting agency.

Vehicle

Vehicle occupancy will be limited to four persons. Use of masks while in the vehicle is discretionary.

Airplane

Air travel will be conducted according to the policies of the transporting agency, currently Alkan Air – accessible at <https://alkanair.com/covid-19/>.

Venue Preparation

The venue manager will set up the venue in advance of the court party's arrival pursuant to the relevant contract for services and consistent with the Chief Medical Officer's direction regarding physical distancing and occupancy limits.

Venue Operation

The venue will be operated in accordance with the Chief Medical Officer's direction regarding physical distancing and occupancy limits and the direction of the court.

Signage

The Sheriff will post, or cause to be posted, signage in both English and French advising the public of the rules regarding access to the court venue. Signs will be posted inside and outside of the courtroom.

Courtroom Access

The Sheriff will screen court participants as they enter the courtroom and will deny entry to anyone showing or reporting any of the following symptoms: cough, fever/chills, sore throat, difficulty breathing, headache, runny nose or nasal congestion, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle aches.

Physical Distancing and Occupancy Limits

The Sheriff will control access to the court venue and enforce social distancing in the court environment to the best of their ability considering their other court-related duties. All court participants will conduct themselves in accordance with the guidance of the Chief Medical Office of Health and will comply with the Sheriff's directions.

Custodial Services

The venue manager will assist with arranging a custodian to conduct supplementary cleaning of the courtroom pursuant to the general direction of the court or the specific direction of the presiding justice. The Sheriff will instruct the custodian regarding the surfaces to be cleaned at any given time. The venue operator will provide the general cleaning supplies used by the custodian. Court Services Branch will bear reasonable expenses for supplementary custodial services.

Personal Protective Equipment

The Sheriff will provide disposable masks and gloves that may be issued to court participants upon request or at the direction of the court. Participants are required to wear masks if they cannot maintain the recommended physical distancing or separation with a barrier.

Personal Cleaning Products

The Sheriff will provide hand sanitizer, sanitizing spray and/or sanitizing wipes for court participants. All participants are required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the court environment.

Barriers

The Sheriff will provide portable clear barriers that can be used to separate court participants who cannot maintain the recommended physical distancing or wear a mask (e.g. while giving testimony).

Declarations

The clerk will provide declarations forms for court participants who cannot maintain the recommended physical distancing (e.g. confidential counsel-clients conversations). Court participants in this situation must wear masks.