



Notice to public and profession - COVID-19 Update

November 9, 2021

This notice is an update to our August 4, 2021 notice about mask-wearing in the courtrooms and courthouse.

On November 8, 2021, the Yukon government declared a state of emergency in response to the current COVID-19 situation.

Effective immediately people attending the Law Courts Building in Whitehorse for court-related business are required to wear face masks. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own mask, but if you do not have one, a supply will be available in the atrium, or a Sheriff will provide one to you.

These measures apply to people in the entrances, atrium, Court Registry, restrooms, witness and interview rooms, Supreme Court boardroom, Territorial Court boardroom, main floor boardroom, law library, stairways, hallways, and elevators.

Everyone is required to wear masks in all the courtrooms at all times, subject to the discretion of presiding judge or judicial officer in exceptional situations based on the individual circumstances of each case, including the space in the courtroom, the nature of the case, and the parties and participants. There are also several other exceptions set out below.

Counsel in the courtrooms are not required to wear masks when they speaking in front of the bar at counsel tables, or at podiums, but are required to wear them at all other times. Clients sitting at counsel tables are required to wear masks at all times.

Witnesses are required to wear a mask at all times before and after their testimony, including while walking to the witness stand. Once the witness is in the witness stand, they are not required to wear a mask while testifying.

People sitting in the gallery of the courtrooms are required to wear masks at all times.

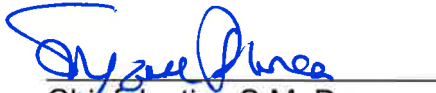
These measures are being put in place as a result of the recent increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections and the Yukon government's declaration of a state of emergency in Yukon. They are consistent with the directives and recommendations of Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Physical distancing will continue to be maintained wherever possible.

Hand sanitizers and wipes will continue to be available in the courtrooms and at each entrance to the atrium. Plexiglass barriers around the witness stands will remain in place and other barriers will be available for use at counsel tables if required.

We remind everyone to stay home if you have symptoms that could be COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and compliance with these requirements that help us protect the health and safety of everyone.



Chief Justice S.M. Duncan



Chief Judge M. Cozens