



NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC COVID-19

January 27, 2023

This replaces the Notice of June 27, 2022. The Notice of June 3, 2022 related to masking is in effect.

Courtroom Appearances

The presiding judge at any hearing has the discretion to direct certain precautions to ensure the health and safety of all participants depending on the circumstances of a particular court hearing.

Court Appearances in Communities

The Courts will respect the concerns of any community about the health and safety of their members due to the pandemic. The Court party will consider not travelling for court hearings to any community that advises through their leadership that this poses an unacceptable risk to their community members.

Changes to this Notice

If the COVID-19 situation changes over the coming weeks or months, the Courts may reinstate some or all of the previous restrictions.

Screening Process for Persons Entering the Courtrooms

The Government of Yukon continues to recommend self-assessment based on the following symptoms:

- fever;
- chills;
- cough;
- shortness of breath;
- runny nose;
- sore throat;
- headache;
- loss of sense of taste or smell;
- fatigue;
- loss of appetite;
- nausea and vomiting;
- diarrhea;
- muscle aches.

Please do not attend the courthouse if you are experiencing one or more symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19 unless:

- you have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (this includes all medications that decrease symptoms including Tylenol or ibuprofen);
- it has been at least 48 hours since the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea; and
- all other symptoms appear to have noticeably improved, and none of your symptoms are getting worse.

You do not have to stay home until all of your symptoms are completely gone. Please use common sense and common courtesy in assessing the seriousness of your condition and whether you may still be contagious.

If you suffer from any pre-existing conditions, consider what are normal symptoms for you. If any of the above symptoms are usual symptoms of one of your pre-existing conditions, then you may not need to get tested or stay home.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19, as outlined above, and you are a party, an accused, or a witness whose presence is required in court, please ensure that you inform your counsel or the Trial Co-ordinator of your health situation before the time of your scheduled court appearance.

Counsel and self-represented parties may be asked to confirm at any in-person court appearance that to their knowledge, no one involved on their side, including witnesses and support persons, has any symptoms of illness that may be COVID-19, as outlined above, or has had recent contact with anyone who has symptoms that may be COVID-19.

If the Sheriffs observe anyone displaying symptoms that may be COVID-19, Sheriffs have the discretion to exclude observers from the courtroom, subject to the Judge's direction. Sheriffs and/or counsel will advise the Court of any court participants displaying such symptoms, at which time the Court will address the issue if necessary.

If during the proceedings, counsel, parties, or participants become aware that they or someone they have been in contact with in accordance with guidelines listed above have tested positive for COVID-19, they shall notify the clerk.

Chief Justice S.M. Duncan

Chief Judge Michael Cozens