

March 12, 2020

Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19)

British Columbia is experiencing an increase in cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and it is anticipated that the virus will continue to spread. The Court of Appeal for British Columbia and the Supreme Court of British Columbia continue to monitor information and take guidance from public health officials and are taking steps to try to ensure the safety and health of the members of the public who interact with the Court.

Public Health Recommendations

The Courts encourage members of the public to follow current public health recommendations to protect their own health and the health of others. Please visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) website for information and links to other reliable sources. Information is also available on your local public health authority website.

Courthouse and Court Proceedings Are Open

Most court proceedings are open to members of the public to attend. However, members of the public who are ill should refrain from visiting the Court to protect the health of others by preventing the spread of illness, including COVID-19.

Trials, Applications, and Appearances

Counsel are encouraged to touch base with their clients and any witnesses scheduled to come to court to ensure that they are healthy enough to attend. If there are any concerns, arrangements may need to be made and this should be addressed before the presiding judge or master in consultation with the other parties. Counsel or litigants who are ill, in self-isolation or in quarantine may be able to attend a court hearing by telephone.

For proceedings or appearances in the Court of Appeal, please call the Court of Appeal registry in Vancouver or Victoria for more details. Contact information for the Court of Appeal can be found [here](#).

For proceedings or appearances in the Supreme Court, please call the Supreme Court Scheduling Department in the relevant location for details. Contact information for the Supreme Court Scheduling Departments can be found [here](#).

Jury Selections and Jury Trials

At this time, jury selections and jury trials are proceeding as scheduled. Members of the public who have received a jury summons must attend as required on the selection date identified in the summons. Jurors must attend trial as required. However, anyone who is ill, in self-isolation or in quarantine, should not attend, but should contact Sheriff Services by telephone or email for instructions.

Information about Ongoing Trials, Appeals or Other Proceedings

If the situation reaches the point where a reduction of court operations or other measures are necessary, the Courts will post information on this website as soon as possible. [Daily Hearing Lists](#) are already available on the Court's website. Specific questions regarding the status of a particular proceeding should be directed to the Court of Appeal registry in Vancouver or Victoria or the Supreme Court registry in the relevant [court location](#).