



THE LAW COURTS
800 SMITHE STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.
V6Z 2E1

Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media

COVID-19: Lifting of Courthouse and Courtroom Pandemic Measures

COVID-19 Notice No. 52

Date: March 31, 2022

Effective April 11, 2022, this notice rescinds the following notices:

- COVID-19 Notice No. 45 – Adjournment of Trials and Other In-Person Proceedings / Resumption of Trials and Other In-Person Proceedings (issued December 31, 2021; January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022; February 2, 9, 16, 23, 2022; and March 2, 9, 23, 2022)
- COVID-19 Notice No. 43 – Notice to the Media and the Public Regarding Access to Supreme Court Proceedings
- COVID-19 Notice No. 40 – Resumption of Trial Management Conferences – Civil and Family Matters
- COVID-19 Notice No. 36 – Resumption of Case Planning Conferences
- COVID-19 Notice No. 34 – Expansion of Court Operations – In-Person Registry Services
- COVID-19 Notice No. 32 – Registrar Hearings
- COVID-19 Notice No. 27 – In Court Measures During the Pandemic
- COVID-19 Notice No. 14 – Applications by Written Submissions
- COVID-19 Notice No. 10 – E-filing and Bankruptcy Desk Orders

I. INTRODUCTION

As of April 8, 2022, the B.C. Government will be lifting [most restrictions](#) imposed to control the spread of COVID-19.

The Supreme Court has also lifted many of the in-court measures that were put in place to control the spread of COVID-19 at courthouses, and has resumed in-person proceedings except in limited circumstances.

II. COURTHOUSE AND COURTROOM MEASURES

As of April 11, 2022, people attending courthouses across the province can expect the following:

- Sheriffs will no longer be conducting health screening for people entering a courthouse.
- In the public areas of the courthouse, wearing face masks will be a matter of personal choice.
- In a courtroom, the wearing (or not) of face masks is subject to the direction of the presiding judge, master or registrar.
- A supply of face masks will be available in all courthouses and courtrooms.
- Capacity limits in courthouses and in courtrooms will be lifted.
- Parties, counsel, witnesses and other courtroom participants may not bring their own water into the courtroom. Water will be supplied.
- Except in the case of criminal jury selections and criminal jury trials, physical distancing requirements will be removed.

III. CIVIL AND FAMILY PROCEEDINGS

For information about civil and family proceedings including default methods of attendance effective April 11, 2022 see [COVID-19 Notice No. 50](#).

IV. CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

For information about criminal proceedings including default methods of attendance effective April 11, 2022 see [COVID Notice-19 No. 51](#).

V. MEDIA AND PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

Unless the court otherwise orders, effective April 11, 2022 members of the media and public may attend any proceeding in person at a courthouse. For more information about attending court proceedings, including requests to attend by telephone, see [COVID-19 Notice No. 49](#).

THE FOREGOING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY UPDATED DIRECTIONS WILL BE POSTED ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

Dated March 31, 2022, at Vancouver, British Columbia

By Direction of Chief Justice Christopher E. Hinkson
Supreme Court of British Columbia