

NOTICE
PROVINCIAL COURT OF MANITOBA

RE: COVID-19 – Update

Since the beginning of COVID-19, the Manitoba Courts have taken measures which are pro-active and preventative in order to protect the participants in the criminal justice system and reduce the spread of COVID-19. The Courts have prioritized the health and safety of all court participants while balancing the need to maintain judicial operations.

As of November 2, 2020, Winnipeg has moved to a Code Red designation, a restricted level based on the COVID-19 Pandemic Response System of Manitoba. Other regions have moved to a Code Orange. We as Courts advised we would continue to assess the COVID situation and react and adjust accordingly. Given the rising COVID numbers across Manitoba and particularly in Winnipeg, Courts have determined enhanced COVID measures should be implemented immediately.

Beginning November 3, 2020, additional COVID-19 precautions will be put in place by Sheriff Services which includes enhanced COVID screening questions and temperature screening for all members of the public and court stakeholders, including counsel, upon entry to any courthouse across the province. These additional screening measures will be rolled out to the circuits as soon as possible.

At this time, the Manitoba Provincial Court will continue to hear both in custody and out of custody matters in all of the major court centres and the circuits which remain open. All existing protocols remain in force, including the use of remote hearings where applicable. The Provincial Court is working closely with Courts Administration to enhance the ability to appear remotely.

While the Provincial Court of Manitoba remains open at this time, it will be closely watching the COVID situation and continually re-assessing whether we will continue to remain open to hearing out of custody matters going forward. We will review and reassess all relevant considerations on at least a weekly basis. It may be the Court takes a targeted response to what centres remain open based on the COVID situation throughout the Province.

We thank all stakeholders for their continued vigilance in implementing and abiding by the various protocols, including mask wearing and social distancing, as we all take the necessary precautions to flatten the curve and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

ISSUED BY:

“Original signed by:”

**The Honourable Chief Judge
Margaret Wiebe
DATE: November 2, 2020**