

MANITOBA COURT OF APPEAL
MANITOBA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COURT

NOTICE

FEBRUARY 25th, 2022

RE: COURT TRANSITION PLAN ARISING FROM EVOLVING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS

The three Manitoba Courts are currently reviewing the recently announced easing of Public Health Order restrictions. This examination is being done with a view to properly customizing an approach to what will be a transitional period during which the Courts will resume delivery of in-person court services. With the goal of a June 27th full reopening, in the coming weeks each of the Courts will be announcing a transition to an increased level of service for its respective Court.

Keeping in mind that the Courts provide an essential service, we will continue to balance the health and safety of all court users with the need to maintain open and accessible services. Informed by the recommendations of the Chief Public Health Officer and the need to ensure a robust and functioning justice system, the transition plan will proceed by way of a gradual relaxation of restrictions. This will be applied in all Manitoba court facilities as follows:

- Support Persons** **April 18th, 2022:** As of April 18th, there will be an increase from two to five support persons allowed per accused, victim, or child witness.
- Masks** **May 16th, 2022:** Until May 16th, masks will continue to be required by all attendees to any court facility in the Province. Masks are available at the entry to all court facilities. Without proof of exemption, any attendees without a mask will be refused entry or asked to leave. Although no longer required after May 16th, mask use will continue to be supported as a means of minimizing the risk of COVID-19 transmission, unless requested otherwise by a presiding judge in the context of a hearing.
- Public Access** **June 27th, 2022:** Unlimited access to the courts by members of the public will resume on June 27th. As of this date, there will no longer be any COVID-19 related restrictions in place.

To protect all court users, other measures—including enhanced cleaning of high touch areas and the use of plexiglass barriers—will remain in place indefinitely. All court users are asked to continue to self-monitor for symptoms of illness and not to attend court facilities when sick. We urge all court attendees to conduct themselves with courtesy and respect for others.

The Manitoba Courts will continue to actively monitor the public health situation and may issue further Notices adjusting timelines or reintroducing restrictions in response to changing circumstances.

Richard Chartier
Chief Justice of Manitoba

Glenn D. Joyal
Chief Justice
Court of Queen's Bench

Margaret Wiebe
Chief Judge
Provincial Court