



Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media regarding Mask-Wearing in Court Facilities

Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, Supreme Court and Provincial Court

November 24, 2020

Effective November 20, 2020, by order of the Chief Public Health Officer, all persons must wear a mask while present in an indoor public place in Prince Edward Island (COVID-19 Prevention and Self-Isolation Order dated November 19, 2020). Courthouses in the Province are public places. Wearing a non-medical mask is mandatory in all courthouses.

The order of the Chief Public Health Officer allows for exemption from the mask requirement in specific locations within a courthouse – a courtroom, jury room, or secured area. This exemption allows courts to function while adhering to the CPHO directions and advice for necessary public safety initiatives and limitations. Accordingly, for optimal public health and safety, all persons will generally be required to wear masks in the courtroom, except in narrow and specific circumstances, for example, when a person is testifying from the witness box, when a lawyer is actively engaged with the court or a witness, and as otherwise determined by the presiding judge. Leave of the court is required before any person removes their mask.

Court administration, judges, and court staff have consistently followed the CPHO directions over the past eight months that have been necessitated by this pandemic. We are confident this latest requirement will be carried out with the same commitment. We thank all court participants for your continued cooperation and compliance.

Handwritten signature of David H. Jenkins in blue ink.

Chief Justice David H. Jenkins
Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal

Handwritten signature of Tracey L. Clements in blue ink.

Chief Justice Tracey L. Clements
Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

Handwritten signature of Nancy K. Orr in blue ink.

Chief Judge Nancy K. Orr
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island