



## **Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media regarding**

### **COVID-19 Update**

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

**April 6, 2022**

The Province will move to enter Phase 3 of its reopening plan beginning Thursday, April 7, 2022. This Plan provides that certain COVID-19 restrictions will be removed including gathering and capacity limits, and physical distancing requirements. Masking mandates will continue in place until at least April 28, 2022.

However, the Courts will continue to keep the restrictions in place for the time being, and until a further announcement is made. Gathering and capacity limits will continue to be adhered to as well as physical distancing and masking requirements.

All Courts have resumed hearing most matters in-person. However, a request for a virtual hearing can be made. It will be in the discretion of each Court whether to hold a virtual hearing. Inquiries may be directed to:

Court of Appeal: 902.368.6024  
Supreme Court: 902.368.6023  
Provincial Court: 902.368.6040

Access to the Registry will continue to be restricted. The Drop Box will continue to be available for document delivery and e-filing will be maintained.

In keeping with the open courts principle members of the media are permitted to attend court matters provided space is available. If not, each court will arrange for media to attend virtually.

The Courts continue to appreciate the patience and cooperation of all.

Hon. Michele M. Murphy  
(Acting) Chief Justice of Prince Edward Island

Hon. Tracey L. Clements  
Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

Hon. Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Chief Judge Provincial Court



**Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media**

**Covid 19 Update – Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island**

**February 15, 2022**

With the easing of some public health restrictions, effective Tuesday, February 22, 2022, the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island will resume hearing most matters in-person, subject to specific direction from the court. Other public health measures, including masking and social distancing, will continue. Questions, including requests to participate virtually or by teleconference, may be directed to:

**Court of Appeal: 902 368 6024**

**Supreme Court: 902 368 6023**

Updates will continue to be posted on the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court website. The court continues to appreciate the patience and cooperation of all.

Michele M. Murphy  
(Acting) Chief Justice – Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal

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



**Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media**

**COVID-19 Update - Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island**

**January 5, 2022**

Given the increase in COVID-19 cases in the province, the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island are reducing the number of in-person proceedings. Most matters will proceed virtually or by teleconference, or will be adjourned. The Courts are reaching out to the parties directly in relation to scheduled matters. However, any questions may be directed to:

**Court of Appeal: 902 368 6024**

**Supreme Court: 902 368 6023**

Updates will continue to be posted on the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court website.

The Court continues to appreciate the patience and cooperation of all.

**Michele M. Murphy**

**(Acting) Chief Justice – Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal**

**Tracey L. Clements**

**Chief Justice – Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island**





**Notice to the profession, the public and the media regarding  
Criminal, Civil and Family Proceedings**

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

**December 13, 2021**

This notice is to inform the legal profession, the public and the media that the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court and Provincial Court are resuming normal operations effective today, December 13, 2021.

The Courts have worked with the Chief Public Health Office over the past number of days and followed all guidance and recommendations of the CPHO and are confident that the facilities are safe for staff and the public. All Court staff, including judges, are fully vaccinated.

(Acting) Chief Justice Michele M. Murphy  
Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal

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

Chief Judge Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island



## **Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media regarding Criminal, Civil and Family Proceedings**

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

**December 9, 2021**

This notice is to provide additional information and clarification on court operations at the Charlottetown courthouse facilities. Two Charlottetown staff members tested positive for COVID-19 and therefore the courts have operated on a modified basis over the last few days. Generally, matters have proceeded virtually or have been adjourned.

The Chief Public Health Office has recently identified the courthouse facilities located at 42 Water Street, Charlottetown (Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) and 3 Harbourside Access Road, Charlottetown (Provincial Court) as public exposure sites for the following dates: Thursday December 2, Friday December 3 and Monday December 6. Given the current situation, and out of an abundance of caution, the courts in Charlottetown will continue to operate on a modified basis at this time. Matters will generally not proceed in person, but rather will proceed virtually or will be adjourned. However, emergency, urgent or essential matters may proceed in person.

The courts are attempting to reach out to parties directly in relation to scheduled matters. However, any questions may be directed to the following:

**Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal: 902 368 6024**

**Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island: 902 368 6023**

**Provincial Court Charlottetown: 902 368 6040**

Court operations in other locations (Summerside, Slemon Park and Georgetown) are unaffected, and matters are proceeding as scheduled.

The courts are following all guidance and recommendations of the CPHO, and remain committed to ensuring safe facilities for staff and the public. Members of the public are reminded as well that all court staff and members of the judiciary are fully vaccinated.

Acting Chief Justice Michele M. Murphy  
Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal

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

Chief Judge Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island





**Notice to the profession, the public and the media regarding  
COVID-19 -- non-medical masks in court facilities**

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

**October 12, 2021**

This notice is a follow-up to our September 22, 2021 notification regarding wearing non-medical masks.

Effective September 17, 2021, by order of the Chief Public Health Officer, non-medical masks are again required in all indoor public spaces.

As courthouses are public spaces, non-medical masks will be required by everyone who is present in the courthouse. Once individuals are seated in the courtroom, the requirement to wear a mask will remain in the discretion of the presiding judge.

All judges and staff of the Prince Edward Island courts are fully vaccinated.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and compliance with court protocols relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A blue ink signature of David H. Jenkins.

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

A blue ink signature of Tracey L. Clements.

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

A blue ink signature of Jeffrey E. Lantz.

Chief Judge Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island



**Notice to the profession, the public and the media regarding  
non-medical masks in court facilities**

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

**September 22, 2021**

This notice is a follow-up to our July 12, 2021 notification regarding wearing non-medical masks.

Effective September 17, 2021, by order of the Chief Public Health Officer, non-medical masks are again required in all indoor public spaces.

As courthouses are public spaces, non-medical masks will be required by everyone who is present in the courthouse. Once individuals are seated in the courtroom, the requirement to wear a mask will remain in the discretion of the presiding judge.

We thank you for your continued cooperation and compliance with court protocols relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

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

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Chief Judge Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island



**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**

**July 13, 2021**

This notice is a follow-up to our November 24, 2020 notification regarding wearing non-medical masks.

Effective July 9, 2021, by order of the Chief Public Health Officer, non-medical masks are no longer required in indoor public spaces. However, the Chief Public Health Officer recommends continued mask use for those who interact with the public, and where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

We are mindful that courthouses are public spaces and that individuals are often compelled to attend court. For the protection of the public and staff, the courts will continue to follow the recommendations of the Chief Public Health Officer.

**Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island**

In the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, masks will continue to be required by everyone while moving about in public areas, and when staff is interacting with the public.

Once individuals are seated in the courtroom, the requirement to wear a mask will remain in the discretion of the presiding judge.

**Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island**

In the Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island, staff will continue to wear masks while moving about in public areas, and when interacting with the public. Members of the public are strongly recommended to wear a mask, although it will not be a requirement.

Once again, we thank you for your continued cooperation and compliance with court protocols that have been required by this ongoing pandemic.

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

Chief Judge Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island

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





**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**

**July 13, 2021**

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**Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island**

In the Prince Edward Island Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island, masks will continue to be required by everyone while moving about in public areas, and when staff is interacting with the public.

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**Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island**

In the Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island, staff will continue to wear masks while moving about in public areas, and when interacting with the public. Members of the public are strongly recommended to wear a mask, although it will not be a requirement.

Once again, we thank you for your continued cooperation and compliance with court protocols that have been required by this ongoing pandemic.

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

Chief Judge Jeffrey E. Lantz  
Provincial Court of Prince Edward Island

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



**Notice to the Profession, the Public and the Media  
Regarding access to the court proceedings during the COVID-19 pandemic**

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

**February 19, 2021**

Since March 2020, the Prince Edward Island courts have been operating with restrictions on public access to court proceedings. The courts seek to comply with changing CPHO health care guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of managing access is to ensure the safety of participants and provide ability to carry out contact tracing.

The courts respect the open court principle. This involves broad access to court proceedings by members of the public and media. Restrictions on access due to COVID are limited to those considered necessary to ensure a safe environment for all persons who are necessarily involved in the court process. Since March, courts administration has permitted fewer individuals into the courthouses and courtrooms and has required participants to provide personal contact information in order to accommodate CPHO COVID requirements.

For this purpose, the courts adopted a process whereby when a party, witness, lawyer or other person who is to attend court is to advise the court clerk in advance the names and contact information for all individuals who will attend court.

However, while most participants have tried to be compliant, some gaps are being experienced so that courts do not always receive requests and contact information in advance of court proceedings. This results in log-jams at court entrances. Delays are experienced by all, to await Sheriff screening and court approval for attendance.

Therefore, for clarification and going forward, if a party or lawyer is aware that other persons may plan or wish to attend court proceedings – such as a witness or support person or other member of the public or the media – the party or lawyer is requested to inform court administration and seek prior approval. They should indicate the number and names of individuals, contact information, and their role in the proceeding. This will enable court administration or the presiding judge, as applicable, to make a determination regarding access for additional persons and safe accommodation for all.

The courts strive to ensure that CPHO and court guidelines regarding COVID-19 are followed in order to minimize health risks for all persons who attend at the courthouses and court proceedings.

Requests and arrangements should be made by contacting:

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**Court of Appeal:** Sheila Gallant, Deputy Registrar, at [sfgallant@gov.pe.ca](mailto:sfgallant@gov.pe.ca) or 902-368-6024  
(See also COVID-19 Court of Appeal protocol for "COVID-19: Electronic hearings by Telephone and Video Conference" issued May 1, 2020, Court of Appeal Practice Direction 7(c)).

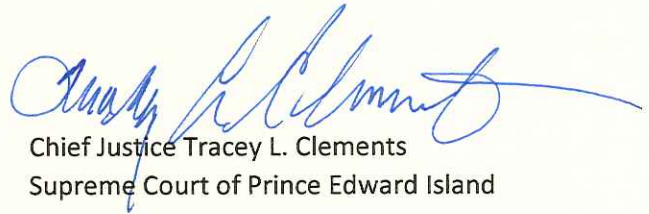
**Supreme Court:** Trial Coordinator, Shelley Young Brennan at [sdyoung@gov.pe.ca](mailto:sdyoung@gov.pe.ca) or 902-368-6023

**Provincial Court:**

Charlottetown – 902-368-6693; Georgetown 902-652-8990; Summerside -902-888-8190

A blue ink signature of David H. Jenkins, written in a cursive style.

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

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Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island

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