



THE PROVINCIAL COURT
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Message from the Chief Judge

April 1, 2022

The B.C. Government will lift most of the province's [COVID-19 restrictions](#) as of **Friday, April 8, 2022**. The purpose of this message is to provide an overview of the changes the Provincial Court will be making on **April 11, 2022** in light of this change.

I. Health and Safety Protocols

Effective April 11, 2022, the Court will rescind NP 22 In-Person Proceedings and Attendance During COVID-19: Health and Safety Protocols.

The Court has also made consequential amendments to the following as a result of the rescission of NP 22:

- [NP 19 Court Operations During COVID-19](#)
- [CRIM 03 Daytime Judicial Authorization Applications](#)
- [NM 01 Accredited Media Access to Court Proceedings and Court Records During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Access to Court Proceedings \(ACC-1\)](#)

II. In Person Attendance

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

- No health screening of anyone entering a courthouse.
- No capacity limits in courthouses or in courtrooms.
- No physical distancing requirements.
- No requirement to wear face masks in courthouses, although they are recommended.
- Wearing face masks in courtrooms is a personal choice unless the presiding judge,

judicial justice, or justice of the peace directs otherwise.

- Plexiglass barriers in courtrooms and the provision of hand sanitizer and face masks will continue.

III. Court proceedings

There is no change to how court proceedings are conducted at this time. The Provincial Court is a high volume Court that received [156,241](#) new cases in 2020/21. Due to the large volume of cases, court proceedings are scheduled at least several months in advance of hearings. In order to minimize confusion resulting from changes in court operations and given the high volume of cases inclusive of matters that have already been scheduled in accordance with [NP 19 Court Operations During COVID-19](#), the Court will require some time to transition to scheduling the various types of proceedings in the different divisions of the court. The Court is committed to announcing its plan about future court operations by June 16, 2022.

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

Melissa Gillespie
Chief Judge
Provincial Court of British Columbia