



**COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA
COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA
PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA**

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC

May 7, 2021

In light of the ongoing public health crisis caused by the pandemic, access to all courthouses in Alberta continues to be restricted in accordance with the attached Notice dated November 27, 2020.

Masks must be worn by anyone entering a courthouse in accordance with the attached Notice dated July 3, 2020 subject to the exceptions noted therein.

Anyone claiming a medical or disability exemption from this masking requirement must provide proof thereof.

For those who do not have a face mask, one can be obtained from perimeter security at the entrance to the courthouse.

We ask for the cooperation of the members of the public and Bar in complying with these requirements designed to protect everyone attending courthouses in this province.

Handwritten signature of Catherine A. Fraser in black ink.

Catherine A. Fraser
Chief Justice of Alberta

Handwritten signature of Mary T. Moreau in black ink.

Mary T. Moreau
Chief Justice of the Court of
Queen's Bench of Alberta

Handwritten signature of Derek G. Redman in blue ink.

Derek G. Redman
Chief Judge of the
Provincial Court of Alberta

November 27, 2020

**COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA
COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA
PROVINCIAL COURT OF ALBERTA**

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC AND LEGAL PROFESSION
RESTRICTED ACCESS TO COURTHOUSES**

The Alberta Courts are attempting to balance the open court principle with public health priorities. Given the ongoing public health crisis, the Courts are continuing to take proactive preventative measures to protect justice system participants and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Access to all courthouses in the province of Alberta continues to be restricted until further notice.

Members of the general public will not be permitted to enter a courthouse unless they are:

- (a) Required to be involved in an in person hearing as:
 - a. Parties to the litigation/appeal;
 - b. Counsel to the parties to the litigation/appeal;
 - c. Witnesses;
 - d. Interpreters whose presence is required for a proceeding;
 - e. Parents of young persons who are required to attend court;
 - f. Support persons as set out in s. 486.1(1) and (2) of the *Criminal Code*;
 - g. Support workers authorized by the Courts to assist parties to the litigation/appeal,
 - h. Members of the accredited media,
- (b) Persons paying a criminal fine or restitution order or paying bail or surety applications on behalf of an accused because they are unable to access electronic payment.
- (c) Persons filing documents at a Court registry.
- (d) Persons whose attendance has been approved by a judge or justice of the Court in which a proceeding is being held.

Lawyers are urged to make use of expanded access to email and e-filing where available in order to better manage traffic at courthouse counters. Lawyers, Court Runners and Litigants attending at courthouses to file documents in person are directed to make use of the dropboxes or the other alternative forms of filing that have been made available.

Attendance at all courthouses will also be refused to persons:

- (a) who have been advised to self-isolate by public health officials or their doctor;
- (b) who are self-isolating as a result of travel or contact with individuals with COVID-19; or
- (c) who are experiencing any COVID-19 related symptoms.

People who are required to enter a courthouse in Alberta must wear a face mask or face covering, subject to health-related exceptions, including in entrances, lobbies, waiting areas, registries, hallways, stairways, restrooms and elevators. In addition, people are required to wear a face mask or face covering in courtrooms unless the presiding judge, justice, master or registrar directs otherwise. Face masks or face coverings must be worn in a manner that cover a person's nose and mouth. If you do not have a face mask or face covering, Sheriffs will provide one when you enter the courthouse. While wearing a face mask or face covering can reduce the spread of infection, it does not substitute for physical distancing, which must be maintained whenever possible.



Catherine Fraser
Chief Justice
Court of Appeal



Mary Moreau
Chief Justice
Court of Queen's Bench



Derek Redman
Chief Judge
Provincial Court



**COURT OF APPEAL OF ALBERTA
COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH OF ALBERTA
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**NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION AND PUBLIC
WEARING MASKS IN COURTHOUSES**

July 3, 2020

The Court of Queen's Bench and Provincial Court are scheduled to increase in-person hearings July 6, 2020.

It is now recognized by public health officials that people who are infected but are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic contribute to community spread of COVID-19. The use of face masks can reduce the spread of infection.

Accordingly, to enhance safe access to Alberta courthouses, effective July 6, 2020, all persons entering a courthouse in Alberta shall be required to wear a face mask while in any public area of the courthouse subject to the exceptions outlined below.

Public area means all common areas outside of individual courtrooms including entrances, reception areas, waiting areas, hallways, stairways, restrooms and elevators. In addition, while inside individual courtrooms, those present must wear a face mask when required to do so by the presiding Judge or Master.

While wearing a face mask can reduce the spread of infection, it does not substitute for physical distancing which must be maintained. For those who do not have a face mask, one can be obtained from perimeter security at the entrance to the courthouse.

Children under two years of age, persons with a medical condition or disability that inhibits wearing a face mask and persons who are unable to place or remove a face mask without assistance are exempt from these requirements. Persons who are seated at a facility in the courthouse that offers food or beverage service are also exempt while they are eating or drinking provided they are able to maintain a distance of at least six feet from persons who are not members of the same household or residence.

We ask for the cooperation of the members of the public and Bar in complying with these requirements designed to protect everyone attending courthouses in this province.



Catherine A. Fraser
Chief Justice of Alberta



Mary T. Moreau
Chief Justice of the Court of
Queen's Bench of Alberta



Terrence J. Matchett
Chief Judge of the
Provincial Court of Alberta