



COVID-19: COURT PARTICIPANTS FROM OUTSIDE ATLANTIC CANADA

Monday, Sept. 21, 2020

The COVID-19 situation is unprecedented for everyone. Organizations and institutions around the world, including the courts, continue to adapt to support safer operations.

The *Health Protection Act* Order was amended to permit people from outside Atlantic Canada, so long as they are well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19, to participate in legal proceedings in Nova Scotia's courthouses when required, without the need to self-isolate for 14 days.

Counsel is requested to notify the Court and Court Administration in advance of the proceeding, as soon as they become aware that a party or counsel is seeking to participate in person, from outside the Atlantic region.

Advance notice provides time for Court Administration and Sheriff Services to make the necessary arrangements to help the participant avoid unnecessary contact with others in the courthouse. This may include a separate waiting area or entrance, for example.

The full text of the exemption is below and a link to the Order is available here: <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/docs/health-protection-act-order-by-the-medical-officer-of-health.pdf>

2.6 Notwithstanding section 2.1, individuals who are well and showing no symptoms of COVID-19 and are engaged in a legal proceeding in Nova Scotia, whether the accused, victim, witness or party in such proceeding, may enter Nova Scotia for participation in the legal proceeding if the person:

- (a) self-isolates/self-quarantines for the period they are in Nova Scotia other than when they are in court; and
- (b) complies with the physical distancing requirements of 2 metres (6 feet) while in Nova Scotia.