



COVID-19: PROVINCIAL COURT WILL ALLOW IN-PERSON PROCEEDINGS STARTING JUNE 14

Monday, June 7, 2021

Effective Monday, June 14, 2021, the Provincial Court of Nova Scotia will allow in-person proceedings, provided they can be held in accordance with Public Health directives. That means preliminary inquiries and trials scheduled on June 14 or later will be able to go ahead, unless otherwise ordered by the presiding judge.

All participants attending court in person are expected to wear a mask at all times, including in the courtroom and when speaking. As per the [May 27, 2021 Update on Masking](#), the All Courts Recovery Committee is now strongly recommending individuals wear disposable medical masks, rather than reusable cloth masks.

Sheriffs will provide a disposable medical mask to all witnesses, defendants and other participants involved in an in-person court proceeding. Counsel are expected to bring their own disposable medical mask. However, for those who may not have one, a supply will be available at the front doors of the courthouses.

In an effort to hear more matters and help address the backlog of court proceedings, the Provincial Court will continue to deal with many matters, including bail hearings, by telephone or Microsoft Teams, even after the suspension of in-person proceedings is lifted.

For summary offence matters in Night Court in Sydney and Halifax, Presiding Justices of the Peace are hearing matters by telephone and video on Microsoft Teams, including trials if all participants consent to proceed virtually. Night Court matters that require in-person attendance will resume on June 14, 2021.

The Provincial Court appreciates that counsel and parties may have family obligations that make it difficult to participate in a virtual court proceeding. Counsel are nevertheless encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to move their matters forward. We must all be flexible when it comes to technical difficulties or other challenges that participants may experience during virtual court proceedings.

For more information on the COVID-19 measures in the Provincial Court and the Youth Justice Court, please refer to the [Consolidated Directive](#).

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