



## **COVID-19: SUPREME COURT EXTENDS MODIFIED ESSENTIAL SERVICES MODEL**

**Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022**

Due to the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (both the General and Family Divisions) is extending the modified essential services model that is currently in place in all locations until Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

The Supreme Court returned to a modified essential services model on Dec. 17, 2021, following outbreaks of COVID-19 across Nova Scotia and the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. The full Notice is available online [here](#).

Under a modified essential services model, in-person proceedings in the Supreme Court are limited to those deemed urgent or essential by a judge.

Counsel and other court participants are reminded that mandatory masking and physical distancing measures are in effect for any urgent court matter that proceeds in-person.

Any non-urgent Supreme Court matters, including probate and bankruptcy matters, that can be held virtually by telephone or videoconferencing are allowed to proceed, provided there is sufficient staff and equipment to do so. Any non-essential matters that cannot be dealt with virtually will be adjourned and rescheduled.

These are temporary measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Nova Scotia. They will be regularly evaluated, and new directives will be issued as the situation with the pandemic evolves.

For more information on the Supreme Court directives related to COVID-19, go to [https://www.courts.ns.ca/News\\_of\\_Courts/COVID19\\_Preventative\\_Measures.htm](https://www.courts.ns.ca/News_of_Courts/COVID19_Preventative_Measures.htm).

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