



## **MASKING IN PUBLIC AREAS OF COURTHOUSES**

**Monday, Nov. 14, 2022**

Counsel, media and members of the public are reminded that given the unique position of the Courts, masks will continue to be mandatory in public areas of Nova Scotia courthouses until further notice. Masking inside courtrooms is strongly encouraged but will be at the discretion of the presiding judge.

Unlike other public spaces in society, such as restaurants, retail stores and government offices, individuals who attend court are often compelled to do so. Further to that, court proceedings, particularly criminal matters involving individuals in custody, often involve vulnerable segments of the population. As such, it is important to continue to provide a safe place for court matters to proceed.

**Anyone visiting a courthouse is expected to bring their own disposable medical mask for use while in the building. If that is not possible, sheriffs will have masks on hand at the main entrances of the courthouses.**

The Nova Scotia Courts started lifting some COVID-19 restrictions in courthouses in June. However, judges still retain discretion on what happens in their courtroom and may require additional preventative measures based on the circumstances of the matter before them.

Physical distancing and capacity limits remain in the Provincial Court for intake or arraignment court, or if there is a high volume of matters scheduled in a Provincial Court courtroom. For more information, please refer to the [July 15, 2022 Court Notice](#).

The All Courts COVID-19 Recovery Committee will continue to assess the situation to determine when the masking requirement may be lifted. The Courts appreciate your patience and cooperation to ensure the safety of all court users.

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### **Media Contact:**

Jennifer Stairs  
Communications Director  
Nova Scotia Judiciary  
902-221-5257  
[stairsjl@courts.ns.ca](mailto:stairsjl@courts.ns.ca)