



MASKING NO LONGER REQUIRED IN PUBLIC AREAS OF COURTHOUSES

Monday, April 17, 2023

Effective Wednesday, April 19, 2023, visitors will no longer be required to wear a mask in public areas of Nova Scotia courthouses. Masking in courtrooms will continue to be at the discretion of the presiding judge.

The Nova Scotia Courts started lifting some COVID-19 restrictions in courthouses back in June 2022. At the time, the All Courts COVID-19 Recovery Committee recommended that mandatory masking remain in place, in part because court proceedings, particularly criminal matters involving individuals in custody, may include vulnerable segments of the population.

Since then, other organizations in the justice system, including correctional facilities, have lifted their mandatory masking requirements. The Recovery Committee has continued to assess the situation and in light of these developments, is recommending courthouses follow suit.

Judges still retain discretion on what happens in their courtroom and may require masking and other 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](#).

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