



**MANITOBA COURT OF APPEAL
MANITOBA COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH
MANITOBA PROVINCIAL COURT**

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION

August 28, 2020

Re: COVID-19

On March 13, 2020, the Manitoba Court of Appeal, the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench and the Manitoba Provincial Court issued a Media Notice which was distributed broadly to court stakeholders, regarding the operation of the courts and COVID-19. In that Notice, the Manitoba Courts advised we were taking pro-active and preventative measures in order to protect participants in the justice system and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We advised we recognize the seriousness of the situation and prioritize the health and safety of all court participants while balancing the need to maintain judicial operations. We also stated we would actively monitor the situation and be ready to make changes where required based on the spread of COVID-19.

Since that date, many courts are operating again with COVID-19 protocols in place. These protocols are based on the advice of health professionals and public health orders.

On August 19, 2020, health orders were issued which rated the Prairie Mountain Health Region a Code Orange - or a restricted designation which indicates community transmission of COVID-19 is occurring. Given this, the Manitoba Courts are issuing this Notice, now **requiring all persons who enter any court facility where a Code Orange is in place to wear a mask. This currently includes only the Prairie Mountain Health Region.** Masks may be non-medical masks and will be available as required at all affected court facilities as of Monday August 31, 2020. In all other Manitoba courthouses, the current protocols remain in place and masks are not mandatory at this time as social distancing is both expected and required. Once you are in a courtroom, it will be up to the presiding Judge, Master or Judicial Justice of the Peace to allow you to remove it. The locations and courthouses in the Prairie Mountain Health Region include: Brandon, Russell,

Rosburn, Minnedosa, Virden, Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Boissevain, Waywayseecappo, Dauphin, Roblin, Swan River and Camperville.

The Manitoba Courts will continue to actively monitor the situation and may issue further Notices in response to the changing circumstances.

The Manitoba Courts encourage all court stakeholders and individuals required to appear before it to follow precautions that can avoid the spread of infection, including COVID-19.

Further information about COVID-19 can be found at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/>

The link to the Prairie Mountain Health Region: <http://www.mhpnetwork.ca/files/pmh-map-comm>

The Provincial Response Level for your region can be found here: <https://manitoba.ca/covid19/restartmb/prs/index.html>

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