

Health and safety during COVID-19

Keeping courts safe at Alert Level 1

Updated 22 September 2020

We have adapted how we work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are following Ministry of Health guidelines to protect the health and safety of all court participants and staff.

Hygiene and cleaning

Good hygiene is a critical defence against contracting COVID-19. **Hand sanitiser** is available in all buildings, including at main entrance points, and **soap** is available in bathrooms.

Cleaning products are provided at entrance points for everyone to wipe down items placed in screening trays. Staff regularly wipe down trays with antibacterial cleaning products.

Courthouses are **cleaned every night** with an increased focus on **high touch points** throughout public spaces, horizontal surfaces in court and hearing rooms, public counters (including bail counters), and all publicly accessible interview rooms. In addition, **a midday cleaning regime** at larger sites focuses on high touch points and jury areas.

Bio-cleans are conducted when necessary in response to close contact cases of COVID-19.

Coming to court

There are no restrictions on who may come to court at Alert Level 1.

There is still a risk of COVID-19 returning to the community and the Government encourages everyone to continue tracking where they've been

and who they've seen to help with contact tracing, if required.

Court participants are encouraged to download the NZ COVID Tracer app and **scan the COVID-19 QR code** using their mobile phones.

Signage tells everyone who feels unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms, including fever, coughing, and difficulty breathing, not to enter the court building.

Thermal scanners will **not** be operating at alert level 1.

The Ministry has developed a **protocol to deal with anyone displaying symptoms of or confirmed cases of COVID-19** in any of our buildings.

We also have a detailed process for **managing the movement** of people who are being held in custody, to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Physical distancing

There are no physical distancing requirements at Alert Level 1, but **everyone attending court is encouraged to continue to practise physical distancing**.

The Chief Justice has also announced that special **measures put in place for jurors at Alert Level 2 will remain in place** following the move to Alert Level 1 outside Auckland on 22 September. That means Perspex screens will remain in the jury boxes in most courtrooms and provision will be made for physical distancing for jurors during empanelling, in the jury box and in jury retiring rooms. The need for these additional measures will be kept under review.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

It is not a Ministry of Health requirement to wear PPE at Alert Level 1, but everyone attending court is encouraged to wear face masks. Masks and gloves are available for all court participants on request at the end of the screening point, subject to availability.

Face masks, gloves and protective eyewear will continue to be made available to staff to wear if they so choose.

PPE for persons in the custody of Police, Corrections or Oranga Tamariki will be managed by those respective agencies.

If you have any questions about health and safety at this court, please direct them to the court manager.