



Supreme Court COVID Protocols

Effective from Tuesday, 4 January 2022

Vaccination status

All persons attending in person to be double vaccinated. The onus will be on the solicitors for the parties to make enquiries of all their participants and confirm their vaccination status to the Court.

Evidence of double vaccination is a condition of entry to any building where the Supreme Court is located. Failure to provide evidence of vaccination will result in entry to the building being refused.

Masks

Masks to be worn in all public spaces. Masks to be worn by everyone in the courtroom with the exception of the judge and those speaking.

QR Codes

Everyone attending Supreme Court premises will need to continue to check-in using the available QR codes.

Audio visual hearings

Matters that will remain solely on AVL:

- Registrars' Lists
- Bail hearings
- Judges' Lists – uncontested matters (ie, where there are consent orders on the papers)

Duty

Matters before the duty judge may be heard via AVL or in person, at the discretion of the duty judge.

Courtroom capacity

Courtrooms will be assessed using the formula of 1 person per 2 square metres. Courtroom capacity numbers are displayed on each courtroom door and other public spaces. This does not apply to ceremonial sittings in the Banco Court.

Open justice and media

Courtrooms are open to media and the public – subject to entry requirements and courtroom capacity considerations. AV links for media available from the Media Manager.

Registry - Public counter

The Supreme Court public counter has reopened and will operate from 10:00am – 4:00pm until Friday, 28 January 2022 and from 9:00am – 5:00pm from Monday, 31 January 2022. Details regarding online filing and online registry services are available from the Court’s website.

Masks must be worn whilst attending the registry and in all public spaces.

Mediations

The Court will continue to offer both face-to-face mediations and virtual mediations utilising the court’s AVL equipment. The parties request (for a face-to-face or virtual mediation) will be accommodated, where appropriate to do so.

Masks to be worn by everyone in the mediation with the exception of the mediator and those speaking.

Regional locations

Similar arrangements will apply for all Supreme Court matters in regional locations, subject to local variations.

Review

These protocols operate from Tuesday, 4 January to the end of February 2022. They may change at short notice due to further COVID-19 rules announced by the NSW Government or further risk assessments completed by the Court.

Criminal Matters other than Bail

Refer to the separate document entitled “Protocol for Criminal Proceedings” issued on 23 November 2021 and available on the Court’s website.



The Hon T F Bathurst AC
Chief Justice

15 December 2021