

Health and safety during COVID-19

Keeping courts safe at Alert Level 1

Updated 07 January 2021

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. Members of the public can attend court without the permission of a judge.

However, if you are unwell stay home.

There is still a risk of COVID-19 returning to the community and we recommend that everyone continues to track where they've been and who they've seen to help with contact tracing, if required.

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

Thermal scanners are operating in Auckland 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 formal physical distancing requirements at Alert Level 1, but **everyone in our courts is encouraged to continue to practise physical distancing of 1 metre.**

Perspex screens have been installed in most Jury Boxes as an extra health and safety measure.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

It is not a Ministry of Health requirement to wear PPE at Alert Level 1, but when you cannot maintain

physical distance when attending court, you are encouraged to wear face coverings.

Face masks and gloves are, subject to availability, accessible for all court participants on request at the end of the screening point.

Face coverings and gloves will continue to be made available to staff to wear if they so choose.

We follow government guidance on when face coverings are required when travelling.

In Auckland, wearing face coverings are:

mandatory on public transport

Note: this mandate is also in place for all domestic flights in New Zealand – that is the whole country, not just flights into or out of Auckland, and

- **strongly encouraged** in all Auckland court buildings.

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.