



Supreme Court of New South Wales

Supreme Court COVID Protocols Effective from Monday, 31 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 and live hearings

The following matters will all proceed via AVL only until the Court announces otherwise:

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

The Court proposes to enable two matters per floor to proceed by way of live hearing (including appeals and examinations). The parties in those matters will be notified by the Court in advance if their matter can proceed in person. Unless notified, parties should assume their matter will proceed by AVL.

Duty Judge

Unless the duty judge determines to the contrary, all duty judge matters will proceed via AVL.

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 closed to media and the public. AVL links for media available from the Media Manager. Members of the public wishing to view a matter should contact sc.enquiries@justice.nsw.gov.au.

Registry - Public counter

The Supreme Court public counter will operate 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 Monday, 31 January 2022. They may change at short notice due to further COVID-19 rules announcements by the NSW Government or further risk assessments completed by the Court.

Criminal Matters other than Bail

Refer to the separate document titled 'Protocol from Criminal Proceedings' issued on 25 January 2022 and available on the Court's website.

The Hon T F Bathurst AC
Chief Justice