



## COVID-19 Update

This update applies to all District Court venues and the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW from Monday 28 February 2022

### Jury Trials & Judge Alone Trials

District Court Criminal Practice Note 23 remains in force. There is **no change to the current practice in jury trials and judge alone trials**, with the **exception** of the temporary suspension to media personnel attending in person being lifted from 28 February 2022.

### Criminal & Civil Lists

All District Court lists in both the criminal and civil jurisdictions are to continue to be conducted remotely until further notice. Judicial discretion may be exercised for court participants to appear in person.

### Persons in Custody

Judges may continue to require persons in custody, including offenders in sentence proceedings and appellants in Local Court appeals, to appear remotely.

### Other Proceedings

In person appearances are permitted in the following proceedings:

1. Criminal Jurisdiction:
  - a. Sentence proceedings
  - b. Appeals and bail applications
  - c. Trials and sentence hearings of WHS Prosecutions
2. Civil Jurisdiction:
  - a. Civil hearings
  - b. Short matters
3. All hearings in the Dust Diseases Tribunal.

There are no requirements for court participants attending in person to apply for leave to appear nor undergo rapid antigen screening prior to attending Court or disclose their vaccination status. Judicial discretion may be exercised for court participants to appear remotely.

The Court encourages court participants who are appearing in person, other than in Jury Trials and Judge Alone Trials, to self-administer a rapid antigen test on the day they are to appear in Court and on every second day of attendance thereafter. Procurement of rapid antigen tests are at the expense of the court participant.

### **Practice Notes**

The following Practice Notes are suspended:

1. District Court Criminal Practice Note 24;
2. District Court Criminal Practice Note 25;
3. Practice Note DC (Civil) No. 16; and
4. Practice Note DDT No 1 of 2021.

### **Face Masks**

Face masks are to continue to be worn in courtrooms and all public areas.

### **QR Codes**

Checking-in using QR codes is not mandatory; however, remain in place for anyone that may wish to continue to use them.

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