

Directive from the Chief Judge of the Court of Québec on wearing medical masks at all times in courtrooms

The decisions and actions of the Court of Québec since the beginning of the pandemic have had two main objectives:

- Maintain judicial services for litigants
- Protect the health of judicial services staff and everyone who must be present in a courtroom, for whatever reason

The Court closely monitors the changing recommendations released by public authorities, especially Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ) and Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité au travail (CNESST).

In light of the latest announcements on these rules, the Court of Québec has issued this directive to replace its directive dated April 12, 2021.

A medical mask must be worn in courtrooms at all times only in regions under red or orange alert (except if the Court permits otherwise).

The situation still requires everyone to remain vigilant and closely follow the guidelines below, regardless of the alert level in the region concerned:

- Comply with the maximum number of people allowed in the courtroom.
- Avoid moving around in the courtroom.
- Ensure that there is either a physical barrier or two meters between persons present.
- Wear a mask:
 - if you must move around
 - if there is no physical barrier between people or it is impossible to comply with the two-meter distancing rule

Chief Judge

Lucie Rondeau

June 8, 2021