

SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA

CIRCULAR TO PRACTITIONERS

No. 22 of 2021

15 December 2021

In response to the anticipated increase in the number of COVID-19 cases following the easing of border restrictions in Tasmania, the following measures will take effect from 15 December 2021 until further notice:

Visitors attending the Supreme Court will fall into two groups :

- **Mandatory attendees:** those who are mandated to attend (such as accused persons; witnesses who have been summoned; jurors who have been summoned; and sureties for bail applicants); legal practitioners representing the Crown and persons appearing before the Court; and other agency support staff required in court proceedings.
- **Non-mandatory attendees:** includes members of the public; family and friends of an accused person; journalists.

Of the above groups, those who are fully vaccinated (as defined in public health guidelines) will be permitted entry upon providing proof of vaccination (or medical exemption) to Court security officers at the point of entry. Proof must be in the form of a vaccination certificate, including on the person's CheckinTas app, or via their MyGov account; or an exemption certificate from a medical practitioner.

For those who are not vaccinated:

- if a mandatory attendee, these visitors will be permitted entry on condition that they wear a mask (provided by Court staff) while present in the Court building;
- if a non-mandatory attendee, entry will be refused.

The Court will manage unvaccinated mandatory attendees with the use of masks, or alternative modes of attendance, eg witnesses by videolink from the protected witness room; or jurors may be excused.

Each judge will determine the appropriate measures that apply in his or her courtroom depending on the circumstances of the case.

I would be grateful if practitioners and their clients would assist by complying with the above measures that are designed to safeguard the health of Court staff, visitors and the broader community.

J A Connolly
REGISTRAR