

The shift taking place in Ontario to ease COVID-19 public health restrictions has meant that we have also needed to adjust the COVID-19 preventative measures currently in place in courthouses. This is in order to ensure that essential justice services can be provided to all Ontarians, in line with other services that are returning to more normal operations.

In consultation with the courts and our health and safety advisors in the Chief Medical Officer of Health's Office, and the Ministry of Labour, Training, and Skills Development, the ministry has finalized a plan to outline the required health and safety measures in the courts moving forward.

**Please see the placemat below for a complete overview of what's changing and when (please note: the placemat replaces all existing ministry guidance documents or safety plans related to COVID-19, effective April 4, 2022).**

- [English](#)
- [French](#)

As outlined in the attached placemat, you may begin to see some changes being implemented immediately (for example, the lifting of masking requirements for the public attending courthouses beginning on Monday March 21) and other changes being implemented more gradually over the coming months.

As you know, we have a suite of overlapping preventative measures currently in place in our courthouses and some of these will take time to phase out, during this period of transition. For example, we have about 38,000 pieces of plexiglass in court locations across the province and removing this measure will happen gradually over several months – except in locations where plexiglass may impede the ability for matters to proceed. In these situations, more urgent removal will be prioritized.

Please note, the Court of Appeal for Ontario (COA) will be communicating requirements specific to the COA's return to in-person proceedings, scheduled for April 4. These may differ from those outlined in the attached document.

We understand that individuals will have varying levels of comfort, regarding these changes – and we hope that our gradual approach will help to ease concerns, to the extent possible. We can assure you that our plan has been informed by our expert advisors, current public health guidance, and aligns with changes happening all across Ontario, and around the world. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to delivering essential justice services, as circumstances have continued to rapidly evolve.

If you have any questions, or require materials in an accessible format, please contact the MAG Recovery Secretariat at: [MAGRecoverySecretariat@ontario.ca](mailto:MAGRecoverySecretariat@ontario.ca)

Thank you.

**Recovery Secretariat**