

Coroners Court of Queensland – COVID-19 arrangements

Issued 21 July 2022

As a result of actions being implemented by Queensland Courts to limit the transmission of COVID-19, the following arrangements are in place:

Arrangements from July 2022

1. Subject to the direction of the presiding Coroner, to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 Coroners Court hearings, including inquests, may be convened via electronic and digital means.
2. The Coroners Court will operate within the Chief Health Officer's guidelines regarding physical distancing and consistent with any relevant Magistrates Courts Practice Directions.
3. Limits on the number of persons in attendance in a courtroom may be enforced.
4. All persons entering a courtroom are strongly encouraged to wear a face mask.
5. Legal representatives and witnesses may apply for leave to appear by telephone or video conference. Coroners will consider those applications on a case-by-case basis in consultation with other interested legal representatives in a proceeding.
6. Participation in hearings for families will be facilitated, where possible, by telephone or video conference. Requests to participate remotely in an inquest hearing can be made directly with the Case Manager assigned to the case.
7. The Coroners Court will continue to be guided by the advice of Queensland Courts and health authorities in relation to whether it is safe to hold a hearing with multiple persons in a courtroom, including attendance by members of the public.

If any person has a query in relation to an inquest proceeding, please contact the assigned Case Manager, or the Coroners Court of Queensland on (07) 3738 7050 or by email state.coroner@justice.qld.gov.au.

Business as usual

Coroners Court of Queensland offices across the State remain open and each registry is contactable by telephone and email. Please see the Queensland Courts website for Coroners Court contact details - <https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/contacts/coroners-court>. All coronial investigative and administrative functions within the court are proceeding as normal.

Please note: any deaths as a result of COVID-19 are largely non-coronial therefore they will not impact on the functions of the Court. Further information about these deaths is available on the Queensland Courts website - https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0003/643197/ccq-fs-when-is-a-covid-19-death-reportable-to-the-coroner.pdf

Should any person have any concerns they can contact the Coroners Court on (07) 3738 7050 or by email state.coroner@justice.qld.gov.au.



Terry Ryan
State Coroner
21 July 2022