

# Magistrates Courts

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## Practice Direction No. 5 of 2021

Issued: 9 December 2021

Amended: 20 December 2021

### COVID-19

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1. Practice Direction No. 5 of 2020 – COVID-19 Court Arrangements is repealed.
2. In light of the greater prospect of community transmission of the COVID-19 virus with the opening of state borders in December 2021, this direction is aimed at ensuring that the Courts, as an essential service, continue to provide justice while ensuring the health and safety of all participants.
3. Any practitioner or unrepresented party who is not fully vaccinated (i.e., not had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine recognised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration) or is aware that a client, witness they propose to call or other person attending court with them is not fully vaccinated should:
  - notify the court of that fact via the relevant registry at least 24 hours prior to attending the court building (<https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/contacts/courthouses>); and
  - ensure that the person not fully vaccinated is made aware of the content of this practice direction.

Early notification to the relevant registry will permit the court to give proper consideration to any necessary alternative arrangements.

4. Subject to the direction of the presiding Magistrate, all person entering a court building must wear a face mask at all times while in the court building, other than when speaking in court.
5. All persons entering a court building should:
  - check in when entering the court building and again before entering individual courtrooms which have separate QR codes, using the 'Check in Queensland App';
  - practise safe distancing

  
Judge Terry Gardiner  
Chief Magistrate  
20 December 2021