



The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann

CHIEF JUSTICE OF NEW ZEALAND | TE TUMU WHAKAWĀ O AOTEAROA

21 August 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

Court operating protocols withdrawn; jury trial guidelines modified

COVID-19 court operating protocols for all jurisdictions have been withdrawn, and the Jury Trial Protocol and Jury Trial Guidelines have been modified, effective today.

Following the Government's decision last week to remove the remaining COVID-19 restrictions, the judiciary, informed by public health advice, reviewed the court operating protocols. Public health advice recommends that people isolate for five days if they have COVID-19 and that masks remain a useful tool to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

The Jury Trial Protocol and Jury Trial Guidelines have been modified to take account of the Government's decision, and in light of this public health advice.

To support these changes, the Ministry of Justice is updating its advice to those who are summoned for jury duty.

The modified [Jury Trial Protocol and Jury Trial Guidelines](#) are available on the Courts of NZ website.

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