



CIRCULAR TO ALL CHAMBERS

19 April 2021

Circ. 5 of 2021

USE OF FACEMASKS IN COURT

Following the recent revocation of the Civil Contingencies Emergency (Coronavirus) (Masks in Public Areas) (No.8) Regulations 2021 the Chief Justice has today handed down a Practice Direction (appended to this Circular) on the next stage of de-escalation on the use of facemasks within courtrooms.

Given the diverse nature of court operations and the potential for mixing with people who may be unimmunised in areas without natural ventilation and upon the advice from the Director of Public Health, those present in courtrooms will be required to wear face masks except for the judge / presiding magistrate when speaking, the advocate when speaking and the witness giving evidence.

Jurors will also be required to wear facemasks whilst in their retiring room.

Social distancing and hand sanitising measures remain in place.

The position is under constant review.

N Golt (Ms)
Chief Executive (ag)



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF GIBRALTAR
AND IN THE MAGISTRATES' COURT
AND IN THE CORONER'S COURT

PRACTICE DIRECTION (FACE MASKS)

It is ordered as follows –

1. The following direction in relation to facemasks to be worn in court, whether in public or private, will take effect on 19 April 2021.
2. Save where the relevant Judge, Presiding Magistrate or Coroner agrees for good reason that a facemask should not be worn, all those present in courtrooms will wear facemasks except for the judge / presiding magistrate when speaking, the advocate when speaking and the witness giving evidence.
3. Jurors are required to wear facemasks whilst in their retiring room.

The Honourable Mr. Justice Dudley
Chief Justice