

**Notification for Stakeholders about General Adjournment of
Court Proceedings
from 3 February 2020 to 9 February 2020
(position as at 1 February 2020)**

(I) General Arrangements

The Judiciary has made a public announcement today (1 February 2020) that in view of public health consideration, all hearings of the courts/tribunals originally scheduled from February 3 to February 9 will generally be adjourned (“adjourned period”). The courts will however handle urgent and essential hearings and/or matters during this period. A copy of the press release is at **Annex A.**

**(II) Urgent and Essential Hearings/Matters Handled by the
Courts**

2. The urgent and essential hearings and/or matters to be handled during the adjourned period include the following :

**(a) For Civil Cases at the High Court, the District Court and
the Family Court :**

- (i) urgent matters or hearings before the High Court, the District Court and the Family Court will continue to be dealt with by the respective Duty Judges (“Duty Judge system”); and
- (ii) the Duty Judge system will be slightly expanded, during the adjourned period, to cover urgent applications to file originating documents at these courts where the limitation period for a cause of action under the Limitation Ordinance (Cap. 347) may expire during the adjourned period. For such urgent applications for filing, the handling solicitor shall provide a certificate explaining the need for urgent filing.

(b) For Criminal Cases at the Court of First Instance of the High Court : bail reviews;

(c) For the Magistrates' Courts :

- (i) fresh remand cases;
- (ii) person remanded in custody who has the legal rights to appear before a Magistrate to review his or her

remand situation and with the return date falling within the adjourned period (“eight-day cases”);

- (d) *For the Juvenile Court* : urgent cases concerning care and protection orders with the return date falling within the adjourned period; and
- (e) *For the Coroner’s Court* : paper applications for waivers for autopsy and urgent cases with pathologist’s recommendation for autopsy.

(III) Statutory Duties

- 3. For the District Court and the Magistrates’ Courts, the Duty Judges and Magistrates will continue to perform, as appropriate, their statutory duties relating to urgent applications for search warrants (using the existing holidays duty magistrate arrangements with 4 magistrates on duty) and applications under the Mental Health Ordinance.

(IV) Detailed Arrangements for the Magistrates' Courts

4. During the adjourned period, the Magistrates' Courts will basically adopt the Holiday or Saturday sitting arrangement in the light of caseload and other factors. They will handle fresh remand cases and eight-day cases etc. The detailed arrangements are as follows :

- (a) 3 Feb (Monday) : Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts, Kwun Tong Magistrates' Courts and Shatin Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (b) 4 Feb (Tuesday) : No Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (c) 5 Feb (Wednesday) : Fanling Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (d) 6 Feb (Thursday) : No Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (e) 7 Feb (Friday) : Tuen Mun Magistrates' Courts will open;
- (f) 8 Feb (Saturday) : the usual Saturday sitting will be adopted, i.e. Eastern Magistrates' Courts, Kowloon City Magistrates' Courts and Shatin Magistrates' Courts will open; and
- (g) 9 Feb (Sunday) : No Magistrates' Courts will open.

(V) Registries and Other Court Offices

5. Court/tribunal registries and offices will continue to be closed until further notice, except for providing support for the handling of urgent and essential court hearings and/or matters as set out above.

(VI) Information and Advice for Court Users

6. The Judiciary is posting relevant advice and information for court users visiting the court premises on the Judiciary website as follows :

- (a) Advice to court users visiting Judiciary premises during the period of general adjournment of court proceedings
(Annex B)
- (b) Preventive measures being taken to enhance environmental hygiene in law courts buildings
(Annex C)

(VII) Further Updates

7. The Judiciary will keep in view developments. If the Judiciary decides to introduce any changes, we will keep the stakeholders posted as soon as practicable.
8. Besides, the Judiciary will continue to post updated information, including Daily Cause Lists and advice to court users visiting the courts during this adjourned period, on the Judiciary's website (www.judiciary.hk). Stakeholders are advised to check the website for updated information as necessary.
9. In particular, for the Bar Association and the Law Society, we should be grateful if you would advise your members to check the website for updated information.

Judiciary Administration

1 February 2020

Annex A

Announcement by Judiciary

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

Attention duty announcers, radio and TV stations:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible and repeat it at suitable intervals:

The Judiciary today (February 1) announced that in view of public health consideration, all hearings of the courts/tribunals originally scheduled from February 3 (Monday) to February 9 (Sunday) will be adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Despite the general adjournment, the courts will handle urgent and essential hearings/matters during this period. These include fresh remand cases, urgent and essential bail-related reviews and other urgent applications to the courts. They will be handled in accordance with the established mechanisms, including the Duty Judge system.

Court/tribunal registries and offices will continue to be closed until February 9, except for providing support for the handling of the above urgent and essential court hearings/matters.

The Judiciary will continue to post updated information, including Daily Cause Lists and advice to court users visiting the courts during this period, on the Judiciary website (www.judiciary.hk). Court users are advised to check the website for updated information as necessary.

Ends, February 1, 2020 (Saturday)

司法機構公布

下稿代司法機構發出：

電台及電視台當值廣播員注意：

請盡快播出下列信息，並在適當時間重播：

司法機構今日（二月一日）宣布，因應公共衛生考慮，原訂由二月三日（星期一）至二月九日（星期日）於法院／審裁處進行的所有聆訊延期至另行通知的日期。

在此期間，雖然一般聆訊將會延期，但法庭仍會處理緊急和必要的聆訊／事宜，包括新羈押案件、緊急和必要的保釋相關覆核，以及其他向法庭提交的緊急申請。這些聆訊／事宜將按現行機制（包括當值法官制度）處理。

除支援處理上述緊急和必要的聆訊／事宜外，法院／審裁處的登記處及辦事處將繼續關閉至二月九日。

司法機構會繼續把更新資訊上載至司法機構網頁(www.judiciary.hk)，包括審訊案件表和法庭使用者在這期間到訪法院大樓應注意的事項。法庭使用者請按需要參閱網頁資訊。

完
二〇二〇年二月一日（星期六）



Advice to court users visiting Judiciary premises during the period of general adjournment of court proceedings

In view of public health consideration, the Judiciary strongly advises all court users who need to come to the Judiciary premises in relation to attendance of urgent and essential businesses including court proceedings to pay attention to and take the following actions:

- (a) To ensure that their body temperature is normal and their physical conditions are well before coming to the court for urgent and essential hearings and/or matters;
- (b) Pursuant to the advice of the Centre for Health Protection of the Department of Health, those returning from the Mainland are advised to stay home for 14 days upon their return as far as possible. For court users who fall into this category, they are strongly advised to consider making alternative arrangement or applying to the court for permission of absence/informing the court with reasons for absence as appropriate;
- (c) To put on a surgical mask when entering Judiciary premises, in particular when interacting with other people within the premises;
- (d) To disinfect their hands after entering and/or touching any handles or pressing any buttons etc. as far as practicable; and
- (e) To wear a surgical mask at appropriate times even during the court proceedings, unless otherwise as directed by the presiding Judge or Judicial Officer.

2. Court users are advised to visit the Judiciary website (www.judiciary.hk) to get updated information as necessary.



於一般法庭程序延期處理期間 到訪法院大樓法庭使用者應注意的事項

基於公共衛生的考慮，司法機構強烈呼籲所有就緊急及必要事務（包括法庭聆訊）而須前往法院大樓的法庭使用者，留意並採取以下行動：

- (a) 就緊急及必要法庭聆訊及/或事宜而前往法院之前，務必確保其體溫正常及其身體狀況良好；
- (b) 根據衛生署衛生防護中心的建議，從內地回港的市民，返港14天內應盡量留在家中。司法機構強烈呼籲有關的法庭使用者應考慮採取替代安排，或在適當情況下向法庭申請缺席許可 / 通知法庭缺席原因；
- (c) 在進入法院大樓時務必佩戴口罩，尤其是當他們在法院大樓內與其他人士進行互動；
- (d) 在進入法院大樓及/或觸摸過任何把手、按過任何按鈕等東西之後，在可行情況下盡量消毒雙手；以及
- (e) 除非主審法官或司法人員另有指示，否則在適當時候包括法庭聆訊期間，務必佩戴口罩。

2. 法庭使用者請按需要瀏覽司法機構網站 (www.judiciary.hk)查閱最新資料。

司法機構政務處
2020年2月1日



Preventive measures being taken to enhance environmental hygiene in law courts buildings

1. To clean and disinfect public areas (such as building entrances, lobbies, lifts, courtrooms and registries) and frequently-touched surfaces (such as door handles and escalator handrails) regularly thrice a day.
2. To disinfect lift buttons every hour.
3. To clean and disinfect public toilets regularly thrice a day.
4. To provide alcohol-based handrub in Judiciary premises for use by court users.

Judiciary Administration

1 February 2020



提升法院大樓環境衛生 的預防措施

1. 每天定時清潔和消毒公眾地方（如大樓入口、大堂、升降機、法庭和登記處）及常接觸的表面（如門柄、電梯扶手）三次。
2. 每小時消毒升降機按鈕一次。
3. 每天定時清潔和消毒公眾洗手間三次。
4. 於法院大樓提供酒精搓手液供法庭使用者使用。

司法機構政務處

2020年2月1日