

PRESS RELEASE

March 12, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Client Services, Communications & Information
Court Administration Division, 8th Floor, The Towers
25 Dominica Drive, Kingston 5
Telephone: 876-613-8800
Website: www.cad.gov.jm

**PREVENTATIVE MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN THE COURTS IN LIGHT OF
COVID-19**

KINGSTON, Jamaica – The Judiciary of Jamaica has taken steps to prevent the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus in the courts for staff and court users.

Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr. Justice Bryan Sykes OJ, CD, has set up a COVID-19 Court Advisory Committee to guide the operations of the courts during this time and has been engaging stakeholders over the past few days.

The Committee held its first meeting yesterday and have agreed on the following protocols to be put in place with immediate effect to reduce the possibility of spreading the COVID-19 in the courts.

1. Sensitization sessions have started in all courts and will intensify in the coming days.
2. Court matters that are generally open to the public will be limited to only those persons who are required for the matter and members of the media. We are therefore encouraging members of the public to stay away from our courts unless absolutely necessary.
3. Discussions are underway with a view to having some court matters such as mention dates and bail hearing via video conferencing.
4. Persons entering our court offices will now be required to sanitise their hands.
5. Sanitisers are to be placed in close proximity to high-touch areas including counters.
6. Staff members are to sanitise hands after processing each customer
7. Office Attendants are to clean high-touch areas and surfaces hourly during the work day

8. The handing out of numbers at all court offices will be suspended until further notice
9. Members of the public are encouraged to take their own pens to sign documents
10. A member of staff is to be assigned to walk the floors in an effort to quickly process persons to reduce crowds in our lobby areas.
11. All persons who interact with members of the public are to wear gloves and to change those as often as possible
12. Maintain a distance of two meters (2m) while interacting with members of the public
13. Persons exhibiting flu-like symptoms are encouraged to go home immediately and keep in constant communication with their Doctors and supervisors

The welfare and wellbeing of all our staff and stakeholders will be treated with the utmost of importance. The Judiciary continues to closely monitor the development of COVID-19 and continues to seek guidance from the Ministry of Health and Wellness on this issue and provide timely updates as they become available.

We encourage our staff and stakeholders to take personal responsibility to protect themselves from the coronavirus. I urge you to follow the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Wellness in sanitizing regularly and washing hands for at least 20 seconds.

Please visit our websites: www.supremecourt.gov.jm, cad.gov.jm and www.parishcourt.gov.jm for information on the coronavirus.