

SUPREME COURT

THE JUDICIARY REPUBLIC OF PALAU

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JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 22-003

Amending COVID-19 Measures in Light of MHHS Directive 100-22

In light of Directive 100-22 from the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MHHS) revising the requirements for international entry, isolation, and quarantine, the Judiciary amends its previous procedures limiting in-person services in part, consistent with the MHHS Directive.

MHHS still strongly recommends that individuals wear proper facemasks for indoor gatherings of 50 people or more. However, the Judiciary will now allow face-to-face interactions for individuals utilizing the services provided by the Office of the Clerk of Courts, rather than seeking access through the service window.

The judicial discretion to conduct certain proceedings remotely is unchanged from Administrative Directive 22-001. Additionally, it is at the discretion of the presiding justice or judge to require that masks be worn throughout their proceedings.

This Directive is made pursuant to my authority as the Chief Justice and Administrative Head of the unified judicial system under Article X. Section 12 of the Palau Constitution. This Directive shall take effect immediately and shall remain operative until amended or vacated, as circumstances warrant. The prior COVID-19 Administrative Directives, including 21-002, 22-001, and 22-002, will remain in effect to the extent they are not incompatible with this Directive.

Dated this 12th day of September, 2022.

OLDIAIS NGIRAIKELAU

Chief Justice