



Friday 16 July 2021

COVID-19: Operational notice for external court users of Bristol Civil and Family Justice Centre

HMCTS has been notified of suspected and positive COVID-19 tests amongst a small number of people who attended our site within the last 14 days. Those awaiting test results or who have received positive test results are self-isolating for a minimum of 10 days from the onset of their symptoms. We wish them a speedy recovery.

As a precautionary step, the areas they occupied or visited while on site are isolated for 72 hours, with signs clearly indicating the isolation points, and followed by regular touchpoint cleaning or s16 cleaning, as appropriate.

Those affected have reported that they had no contact with members of the public visiting the building. Anyone they identified as having been in [close contact](#) (which includes spending more than 15 minutes within two metres of somebody, face-to-face contact of less than one metre, skin-to-skin contact, or sharing a vehicle), would be notified immediately by the court or tribunal they attended, as well as by NHS Test and Trace.

We continue to advise all court users to be aware of and look out for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), such as:

- a new, continuous cough
- fever (a temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If you develop symptoms, however mild, you should follow the [guidance and stay at home for 10 days](#) from when your symptoms started and refer to the [testing guidance on GOV.UK](#).

I understand the level of concern this may cause but I want to assure you that we are taking this situation very seriously and are responding responsibly, proportionately and in accordance with NHS and public health advice.

Our buildings are not considered close contact settings and the measures we have put in place, as part of our COVID-19 risk management arrangements, are extensive and satisfy public health guidelines for a COVID-secure environment. These include:

- social distancing
- modified search on entry procedures
- adequate supplies of consumables such as soap and hand sanitiser
- floor markings and signage
- one-way systems if necessary
- wearing of face coverings in all public areas

- frequent cleaning.

This information is provided in line with [HMCTS processes for reporting COVID-19 incidents](#) to professional court users.

If you have any concerns about what you see and experience when visiting our buildings we have published an [escalation route to raise any issues](#), which will enable us to respond quickly and effectively.

If you have concerns about your own possible transmission risks, please contact me by email or telephone. If appropriate, I will share your information with NHS Test and Trace, who will advise you directly to self-isolate if they consider it necessary.

This operational notice is being shared with our local justice partners and professional court users.

Helen Andrews MBE
Operations Manager