

Manchester Arena Inquiry

Covid-19 Information pack

Covid-19

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the Inquiry will be asking attendees to comply with certain measures designed to safeguard against the risk of infection.

Please only travel to and from the hearings with members of the same household or support bubble. Use private transport wherever possible. The nearest public car park is NCP Spinningfields at New Quay Street, M3 3BE.

Upon entry to the Magistrates' Court or Spinningfields Conference Centre, attendees will be shown a Covid-19 declaration and asked whether they have any symptoms of Covid-19. If the attendee is unable to make the declaration, or if they have visible Covid-19 symptoms, they will be refused entry to either complex.

Attendees should familiarise themselves with the symptoms of Covid-19.¹ Anyone that has Covid-19 symptoms on a hearing day should not attend. Instead, they should remain at home and arrange for a Covid-19 test.²

When attendees are passing through either building, they should:

- maintain a 2-metre social distance between themselves and other households (or social bubbles);
- comply with any one-way systems or Covid-19 signage;
- use hand sanitiser and regularly wash hands for at least 20 seconds;
- comply with other usage guidelines relating to, for example, toilet facilities. The toilets located closest to the main hearing room on the corridor are currently only permitting entry to one person at a time;
- let a member of Inquiry or court staff know if hand sanitiser or soap needs replenishing;

When seated in the hearing rooms or conference suite, attendees should:

- remain in the seat assigned to them and not swap with members of other households (or support bubbles);
- not move their seats nearer to the seats occupied by another household (or support bubble).

There are enhanced cleaning regimes in both venues. If an attendee sees anything that is below the standard of cleanliness they would expect, they should speak to a member of Inquiry or court staff.

¹ NHS England, 'Check if you or your child has coronavirus symptoms'

<<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>>

² NHS England 'Get a free NHS test today to see if you have coronavirus'

<<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>>

To protect your health, and to ensure that you do not miss hearings due to self-isolating, we politely remind all attendees to follow the Government's Covid-19 guidance at all times, even outside of Inquiry sitting times.

Please take time to familiarise yourselves with the guidance for the North of England; there may be more specific guidance and more severe restrictions if you live within a particular area.³

Face coverings

HMCTS currently requires court users entering, exiting or passing through communal areas to wear face coverings (unless they are exempt).

When attendees are sitting in the hearing room, there is no requirement for them to wear a face covering, although they may do so if they wish. You can ask a member of staff for a face covering, although we request you bring your own.

Not everyone must wear a face covering if they have an exemption.⁴ If you have an exemption that means you do not need to wear a face covering, you may like to consider making a face covering exemption card.⁵

Court users with no face covering and no exemption may be refused entry.

There will be Inquiry staff (identified by name badges and orange lanyards), security staff and ushers present in and around the hearing room.

Contact tracing

For the safety of all attendees, it is crucial that anyone who develops symptoms, however mild, of Covid-19 or tests positive for Covid-19 after attending hearings informs the Inquiry aware as soon as they can. You should also order a Covid-19 test immediately and self-isolate, letting the NHS Test and Trace team know.⁶ You should self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started, or if you do not have symptoms from the date of the test.

Please also use the contact details on the next page to contact the Inquiry stating:

- what your symptoms are;
- the result of any test (if you have taken one);

³ For guidance on restrictions in the North of England: Department of Health and Social Care, 'North of England: Local restrictions' <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/north-west-of-england-local-restrictions-what-you-can-and-cannot-do>>

⁴ HMCTS 'Going to a court or tribunal during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak' <<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/going-to-a-court-or-tribunal-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>>

⁵ HMCTS, 'Example face covering exemption card' <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908308/HMCTS_Face_covering_exemption_-_for_homeprinting.pdf>

⁶ NHS England, 'Get a free NHS test today to check if you have coronavirus' <<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>>

- when your symptoms began;
- the date(s) when you attended the Inquiry hearings.

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- a high temperature;
- a new continuous cough; and
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

The Inquiry has a designated point of contact who will be notified and will respond directly to anyone experiencing symptoms or who has tested positive.

The contact details are generalenquiries@manchesterarenainquiry.org.uk or 01618304331. Please include the words 'contact tracing' in the subject line of any email.

At that stage, the Inquiry will pass your personal details onto the Greater Manchester Integrated Contact Tracing Hub, which will allow us to assess the situation and respond rapidly. The Inquiry will follow the instructions of the test-and-trace team. The Inquiry will also take advice from public health experts as to how to proceed following a positive test.