

Manchester Arena Inquiry: Updated Covid guidance for attending the hearings

12 April 2021

On 12 April we plan to reopen Spinningfields and the media annex and increase the capacity in the Manchester Magistrates' Court. Given the number of new Covid cases remains high and national restrictions are in place, we need to ensure that we take the right steps so that people are able to attend the inquiry safely.

This guidance has been cleared by PHE and Manchester City Council.

Key message: **HANDS – FACE – SPACE**

1. Before leaving home

Do not travel to the hearings if:

- You have any Covid symptoms
- You live in a post-code where additional restrictions are in place
- You have travelled outside the UK in the last 14 days
- You have a positive LFD test result and are awaiting a follow up PCR test
- You are self-isolating as a contact

All attendees will be asked to take a Covid test before they leave home.

2. Travelling

Avoid public transport where possible. Car parking can be provided for all attendees.

3. At the hearing venue

We have limited the capacity across all venues so that people can sit comfortably with at least 2m space around them.

Government restrictions will continue to mean that only households or social bubbles should meet indoors. However, we fully understand that at times families will want to meet

in larger groups, for example with their legal team. The Inquiry Secretariat are very happy to arrange meeting spaces where they can safely do this.

It is recommended that you wear face coverings at all times during face to face contact (these can, however, be removed once seated if there is at least 2m space between contacts).

Use the hand sanitisers freely available in each room.

We will not provide lunches or communal spaces to eat lunch (this will be reviewed once the government allows indoor hospitality to recommence).

Outdoor gatherings must still be limited to 6 people or 2 households.

4. Accommodation

All overnight accommodation should have in place a policy for managing cases where someone needs to self-isolate.

5. Self-isolation

If an attendee is required to self-isolate (in line with government guidance) then they must do so immediately. Please contact the Secretariat if any support is required in these circumstances.

6. Testing

All attendees of the hearings (including staff) are strongly encouraged to take a Covid test twice a week. Test kits will be provided by the Inquiry and to date take-up has been exceptionally high.

7. Risk assessments

We have carried out risk assessments for families wishing to attend the inquiry since 8 March. We propose to continue with this approach after the Easter break.

Inquiry Secretariat