

Coronavirus weekly roundup

Welcome to our Coronavirus weekly round up, highlighting HMCTS weekly update.

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HMCTS weekly update

Here we highlight the operational guidance from HMCTS each week to assist in preparation for court attendances and hearings.

General COVID guidance

- From 19 July 2021 the UK will move to step four of the Government's roadmap in England. Different rules apply to Wales and Scotland.
- The HMCTS Acting CEO, Kevin Sadler has released an announcement on how HMCTS will deal with the move to step four. This includes:

- A requirement for face coverings to be worn in staff, public and communal parts of court buildings.
- In custody suites there is a requirement to continue with all social distancing measures introduced during the pandemic such as touchpoint cleaning, locked down phones, reduced numbers and fluid-resistant surgical masks.
- Screens or barriers will remain in place to separate people from each other who will come into close proximity with others.
- The announcement can be read [here](#)
- HMCTS are actively encouraging all visitors to the courts and all staff to take part in surge testing in areas affected by Covid variants of concern. Individuals who show a positive test should self-isolate and follow the latest NHS advice. Surge testing guidance can be found [here](#)
- Home test kits are available from all courts and tribunals for all professional court users, legal professionals, judiciary, contractors, jurors, witness services and staff who attend scheduled hearings.

Royal Courts of Justice

A new administrative Court Office user guidance was published 6 July 2021. The guidance is designed to assist the court to deal with business efficiently, focussing on:

- Electronic bundles PD 54A
- Applications of urgent consideration

The guidance can be found [here](#).

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