

## COVID-19 INFORMATION NOTICE

### **Covid-19**

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

Please only travel to and from the hearings with members of the same household or support bubble. Use private transport, cycle, walk or avoid busy public transport time wherever possible. The nearest public car parks are:

- City of London London Wall, 23 London Wall, EC2V 5DY
- NCP London Barbican, Aldersgate Street, 158-170 Aldersgate Street, EC1A 4HY
- The Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2Y 8DS

Upon entry to the Guildhall, 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 the building.

Attendees should familiarise themselves with the symptoms of Covid-19.<sup>1</sup> Anyone that has Covid-19 symptoms on a hearing day or 10 days prior should not attend. Instead, they should remain at home and arrange for a Covid-19 PCR test.<sup>2</sup>

About 1 in 3 people with COVID will not show any symptoms but can still infect others. To reduce the risk of COVID infections within the Inquest all attendees are strongly advised to have had been lateral flow COVID tested prior to attending the Inquest and then twice a week.

If you have not tested within the last 24 - 48hrs then you can be tested at the Old Police Museum, which is part of the Guildhall Complex. The entrance is located on the Love Lane junction with Aldermanbury, which is a few minutes' walk from the main entrance to the hearings. All attendees are strongly encouraged to make use of this facility at least twice a sitting week before they enter the building. The results of the lateral flow test are provided within approximately 45 minutes. Attendees are therefore encouraged to give themselves enough time before entering the building for the test to take place. The results of the test are provided by text message and email. The testing site will be open from 7.00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. each weekday, for attendees of the inquests only.

If anyone receives a positive result from the lateral flow test, they must not attend the hearing and will be asked to book a PCR test. The nearest PCR testing facility to the Inquest is situated at Guildhall Yard.

When attendees are moving through the building, in addition to wearing a mask (see below) they should:

- maintain a 2-metre social distance between themselves and other households (or remain within their social bubbles);

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

- 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.
- let a member of Inquest or court staff know if hand sanitiser or soap needs replenishing;

When seated in the hearing room or overflow room, 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 is an enhanced cleaning regime throughout the venue. If an attendee sees anything that is below the standard of cleanliness they would expect, they should speak to a member of the Inquests team or court staff.

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

### **Face coverings**

All attendees when entering, exiting or passing through communal areas are to wear face coverings (unless they are exempt).

When attendees are sitting in the hearing rooms, at their allocated desk, 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. If you have an exemption that means you do not need to wear a face covering, you may like to consider wearing a face covering exemption badge or carrying a card. You can apply for a badge from Transport for London: <https://tfl.gov.uk/campaign/face-covering-exemption-badge>

You can print off a card from the following website:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/903454/Exemption\\_from\\_face\\_covering\\_card\\_to\\_print.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/903454/Exemption_from_face_covering_card_to_print.pdf)

Attendees with no face covering and no exemption will be refused entry to the building. There will be Inquest staff (identified by name badges and blue lanyards), security staff and ushers present in and around the hearing room and overflow 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 the Court informs the Inquests Team as soon as they

can. You should also order a PCR Covid-19 test immediately and self-isolate, letting the NHS Test and Trace team know. 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 Inquests Team stating:

- what your symptoms are;
- the result of any test (if you have taken one);
- when your symptoms began;
- the date(s) when you attended the Inquest 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 Inquests Team 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@fishmongershallinquests.co.uk](mailto:generalenquiries@fishmongershallinquests.co.uk). Please include the words 'contact tracing' in the subject line of any email. At that stage, the Inquest Team will pass your personal details onto the Public Health England London Coronavirus Response Cell (PHE LCRC) and the City and Hackney Public Health team. Any cases will be dealt with in line with the City of London's Covid-19 Local Outbreak Plan<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19-local-outbreak-prevention-and-management>