

Lateral Flow Testing FAQs

1. Do I need to take a COVID-19 lateral flow test before attending an Inquiry hearing?

The Inquiry is asking all attendees and staff attending hearings to take a COVID-19 lateral flow test for each hearing day they attend. We are asking people who get a positive or void result not to attend the hearings.

The Inquiry is asking all attendees and staff to take a test because:

- the current strain of the virus in circulation is highly contagious
- 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms and may be spreading the virus unwittingly
- the virus is airborne and can spread more easily in enclosed spaces.

The Inquiry team is able to help if you are unsure how to get a free COVID-19 lateral flow test. Contact 0808 169 1377 or email contact@infectedbloodinquiry.org.uk to speak to a member of the team.

2. I've had a COVID-19 vaccination, do I still need to take a lateral flow test?

The Inquiry is asking all attendees and staff to take a COVID-19 lateral flow test, regardless of whether they have had a partial or full vaccination. No vaccination provides 100% protection.

3. How do I get a lateral flow test?

The easiest way to get a free COVID-19 lateral flow test kit is to order a home testing kit from the [Government website](#). You will receive a pack of 7 tests within 2 working days to your home address. The kits include guidance on how to take the test.

You can also collect free home testing kits from a local pharmacy or community testing site. Further information is available [here](#).

4. When do I take the lateral flow test?

The Inquiry is asking all attendees and staff to take a COVID-19 lateral flow test the morning they are due to attend each hearing day they are registered for, before travelling to Aldwych House.

If you are travelling a long distance, you may wish to test before travelling as well.

5. Does my test result mean I cannot attend the Inquiry hearings?

You can only attend the Inquiry hearings if you receive a negative result from a COVID-19 lateral flow test.

If you receive a positive or void test result you should not attend the Inquiry hearings. Guidance on what you should do next will be included with the testing kit.

6. Do I need to share my test result with the Inquiry?

You are welcome to share your test result with the Inquiry. You can only attend the Inquiry hearings if you receive a negative test result.

7. Why do I have to wear a FFP2/3 mask?

The Inquiry has made wearing a FFP2/3 mask a requirement in the hearing room to reduce the risk of transmission.

8. If I receive a negative test result do I still need to wear a face covering and follow social distancing guidance?

COVID-19 lateral flow tests can help to reduce asymptomatic transmission of the virus. However, the tests do not pick up all cases, therefore everyone attending the Inquiry hearings must continue to wear a FFP2/3 face mask, maintain social distancing, and wash or sanitise their hands regularly.

More information about the measures the Inquiry has introduced to reduce the risks from coronavirus is outlined in the [Inquiry's risk assessment](#).