



Hearings at Aldwych House

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment

This risk assessment sets out the Inquiry's measures to reduce the risks from coronavirus, including:

- Daily rapid lateral flow testing by everyone attending, including staff
- Wearing of FFP2/3 face masks by everyone attending, including staff
- Limited numbers attending each day with seats at least 2m apart
- Increased ventilation in the hearing room and lounges
- Increased cleaning and infection control measures
- Regular hand sanitisation points

Reducing the risk of coronavirus relies on all of us making sensible decisions. That is why we are asking everyone who is considering coming to a hearing not to do so if there is any risk that they have coronavirus or they feel unwell and aren't sure why.

The Inquiry will continue to update this risk assessment to ensure it meets the latest public health guidance, including any guidance specific to London.



What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What have we already done to control the risks?	What additional actions are needed on hearing days to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
Risk of coronavirus spread by an attendee or staff not displaying symptoms	Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings: about 1 in 3 people with coronavirus have no symptoms	<p>Everyone who registers to attend is expected to take a COVID-19 lateral flow test before travelling to Aldwych House.</p> <p>If you register to attend a hearing you will be provided with information on how to access free COVID-19 lateral flow tests.</p> <p>All Inquiry staff will take daily COVID-19 lateral flow tests during hearing weeks.</p>	<p>You must have a negative lateral flow test before attending the Inquiry hearings.</p> <p>We are asking everyone attending to take a daily COVID-19 lateral flow test. The test should be taken the morning you are due to attend the hearings, before arriving at Aldwych House.</p> <p>If you have a negative lateral flow test result you must continue to adhere to the other measures outlined in this risk assessment which aim to reduce the risks from coronavirus.</p> <p>If you receive a positive or void test result you should not attend the Inquiry hearings. Guidance on what you should do next is included with the testing kit.</p>	The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings	Ongoing during hearings

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Risk of coronavirus spread - through airborne transmission between people	Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings: the closer we are to each other, the easier it is to catch and spread coronavirus and about 1 in 3 people with coronavirus have no symptoms	<p>The Inquiry has limited the maximum attendance at the hearings to ensure at least 2m social distancing is observed.</p> <p>The ventilation systems in Aldwych House run with 100% external air intake. There is no recirculation of internal air.</p> <p>An air purifier will run in the hearing room during breaks and the room will be aired during lunch breaks.</p>	<p>You must not attend the hearings if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19, irrespective of test results • you live with someone experiencing these symptoms • you receive a positive or void lateral flow test result • you have been told by a close contact that they are getting a test for COVID-19 • you live in an area with localised restrictions where people are being advised not to travel • you are still within the isolation period following restrictions related to a trip abroad • you feel unwell and aren't sure why. <p>To facilitate social distancing during the hearings everyone attending should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wear a FFP2/3 face mask¹. We will have a supply of these at Aldwych House. Sir Brian, Counsel and the witness giving evidence will not be asked to wear a face covering in the hearing room to ensure evidence can be heard clearly 	The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings	Ongoing during hearings

¹ 1 FFP2/3 or equivalent masks are to be worn during periods of high levels of infection and transmission to reduce the risk of transmission.

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Risk of coronavirus spread - through contact with surfaces	Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings: coronavirus can spread from people to surfaces	<p>The Inquiry has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided regular hand sanitisation points throughout the Inquiry's hearing spaces employed additional cleaning staff to regularly clean high contact points during the hearing sessions <p>In addition, a disinfectant fogging treatment will be used on the surfaces in the hearing room, lounges and other rooms each evening to reduce the risk of transmission.</p>	All refreshments will be individually packaged.	The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings	Ongoing during hearings

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What have we already done to control the risks?	What additional actions are needed on hearing days to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
Risk of coronavirus spread following an attendee or staff member becoming symptomatic or receiving a positive test result.	Anyone attending the Infected Blood Inquiry's hearings	Everyone who would like to attend will be asked to think about the risks and benefits before registering for the hearings.	<p>You must not attend the hearings if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you are experiencing the symptoms of COVID-19, irrespective of test results • you live with someone experiencing these symptoms • you receive a positive or void lateral flow test result • you have been told by a close contact that they are getting a test for COVID-19 • you live in an area with localised restrictions where people are being advised not to travel • you are still within the isolation period following related to a trip abroad • you feel unwell and aren't sure why. <p>If you become unwell while travelling to, or while attending, a hearing you will be advised to return home and to follow the latest public health guidance. A first aider will be at the hearings and Inquiry staff will be available to assist you in making any travel arrangements.</p> <p>In the event that anyone who was present at, or had recently attended, an Inquiry hearing develops symptoms of, or tests positive for COVID-19, Inquiry staff will follow the processes outlined in the Inquiry Covid protocol. Actions include:</p>	The Inquiry team and everyone attending the hearings	Ongoing during hearings

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting an immediate risk assessment • carrying out enhanced cleaning of the Inquiry hearing spaces and communal building areas in line with that risk assessment. <p>Inquiry staff will provide updates on the Inquiry website of any changes to the timetable.</p> <p>Inquiry staff will continue to monitor changes to public health guidance including any guidance specific to London.</p>		
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