



HM Courts &  
Tribunals Service

# Our commitment to running jury trials safely

Endorsed by Public Health England and Public Health Wales



Jury trials are one of the cornerstones of our justice system. In whatever capacity you are coming to court to take part in a jury trial, your safety is our priority. This table sets out commitment to you, and our ask of you, to keep everyone involved safe.

	<b>You can expect us to:</b>	<b>You will be asked to:</b>
1.	<p>Lay out the court room so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is enough space for social distancing</li> <li>• everyone has a clear line of sight to the other people in the hearing.</li> </ul> <p>We might need to use more than one courtroom so people can spread out. We will link them up using CCTV.</p> <p>We will ensure social distancing in all other rooms you may need to use during the course of the trial.</p>	<p>Enter and leave the courtroom as directed by staff. This will help us make sure there is always a safe space between you and other people.</p> <p>Minimise the number of times you move around our public gallery or media seats. If you do need to move around make sure you keep a safe distance.</p>
2.	<p>Make sure there is enough space for you to keep a safe distance in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waiting areas</li> <li>• deliberation rooms</li> <li>• consultation/private rooms</li> <li>• conference rooms.</li> <li>• Video link rooms.</li> <li>• Rooms for advocates</li> </ul> <p>Chairs will be taped up or have a sign on them to stop you from sitting too close to someone else.</p>	<p>Make sure you keep a safe distance from other people in the building. Please do not remove tape from any chairs to sit down.</p>

	<b>You can expect us to:</b>	<b>You will be asked to:</b>
3.	Display clear floor markings and directional signage around the building to tell you where you should wait, sit, allow others to pass.	Follow the instructions on the signage – it is there to keep you safe.
4.	Give clear directions around the building to limit the number of times you'll need to pass people. This might include a one-way system in corridors or asking you to enter lifts and toilets one at a time. A small number of staff will be there to guide you.	Follow directions to minimise the amount of people you will pass by. We know this might mean it takes longer to move around the building, so please be patient.
5.	Make sure there is a place for you to store any refreshments and personal belongings. We will not be supplying cups or glasses to drink from	Bring your own refreshments as cafes and canteens will not be open in our court buildings. Please provide your own drinking vessel, but do not bring metal cutlery.
6.	Make sure items such as TV remote controls, keypads for doors and trial bundles are all wiped clean between use.	Avoid touching anything you do not need to. Please do not share individual copies of a trial bundle if you're given one.
7.	Make sure your oath is taken without touching the Holy book/scripture. A Holy book/scripture will be present and visible to you.	You are welcome to bring your own Holy book/scripture with you.
8.	Give you hand sanitiser to use where you may not be able to easily leave to wash your hands with soap and water e.g. in the courtroom.	Wash your hands with soap and water when you can. This is the most effective way of cleaning your hands. You will also be allowed to bring your own hand sanitiser in to the court.  You will be able to wear a face covering whilst in the building but may be asked to remove it during the court hearing.
9.	Clean the building regularly, following public health guidance.	Let us know if you see something you think needs cleaning.

	<b>You can expect us to:</b>	<b>You will be asked to:</b>
10.	Make sure witness support is available in person or by phone.	Carefully consider who you bring with you. We understand that you may want to bring someone with you to support you on the day and you will be able to do so. We ask that you think about this in advance and bring as few people as possible.

## Joint statement from Public Health England and Public Health Wales

Public Health England and Public Health Wales have worked closely with HMCTS as part of its work to ensure Crown Courts' readiness for jury trials, and assessed arrangements that have been made to secure the health and safety of all those concerned.

Our involvement has included visits to Cardiff Crown Court and the Old Bailey to review the practical application of these arrangements, and we can confirm that we are content that, where these arrangements are put in place, new jury trials can begin safely.

