

## HOME TESTING LAUNCH

Following the recent Government announcement, you will be aware that with effect from 9 April 2021 home test kits are now available for everyone in England. HMCTS has been working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and since 8 March we have been piloting home tests via a collection service from some of our sites.

It is our intention to make available home test kits for staff, judiciary, contractors, professional court users (including legal professionals) who regularly access our buildings, and we would like to provide you with further detail around the collection service operating at the Royal Courts of Justice and the Rolls Building.

### **Why are we offering Home Test kits?**

HMCTS is committed to supporting The Department of Health & Social Care's national testing programme to identify individuals within the population who are positive for Covid-19 but do not have symptoms. Identifying asymptomatic positive cases and informing them to self-isolate will reduce the spread of the virus. We have been operating on-site testing stations at Manchester Civil Justice Centre, Southwark Crown Court, Leicester Crown Court, Reading Crown Court, Leeds Combined Court, Winchester Combined Court and Northampton County Court Business Centre. Since 8 March, we have been piloting home test kit collection in some of our courts. To date, none of our testing solutions have returned any positive cases.

Testing will supplement our existing COVID-secure measures, provide additional reassurance to staff and court users and help us identify asymptomatic people who need to self-isolate, but who would not otherwise be identified.

Home testing will allow court users to test themselves before coming to court, meaning those who are asymptomatic but test positive can follow NHS advice and stay at home. This will help to keep courts and tribunals safe by reducing the risk of exposure/transmission.

### **Home Testing solution**

Testing will be voluntary. We're offering staff, judiciary, contractors, professional court users (including legal professionals) who regularly access our buildings self-administered test kits to be used at home. Each box can be collected from the court and will include seven tests that will enable two tests a week to be taken for a three-and-a-half-week period.

The tests detect the presence or absence of coronavirus by applying a swab or saliva sample to the device's absorbent pad. The sample runs along the surface of the pad, showing at the end a visual positive or negative result dependent on the presence of the virus.

Full guidance is provided with the kit. The kits will be available for collection in person from a designated collection point within the court. Test results are self-processed and reported via the NHS self-reporting site. The Data Privacy Notice explains how NHS Test and Trace will use your data (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-privacy-information>).

Lateral Flow Tests detect whether the viral load for COVID-19 is high enough to identify whether an individual is likely to be infectious. The result of the test is valid at the point in time that the test is taken.

If the test gives a positive result, court users must follow the [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and self-isolate and should also notify the court where the test was collected.

If the test is negative, then the viral load is not indicative of an individual being infectious and they can continue with normal activities.

### **Details of the collection service**

The collection service will commence on Wednesday 21 April 2021 and will operate Monday – Friday, until further notice, as follows:

- **Royal Courts of Justice**

Queen's Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mezzanine Conference Room

8:30am to 10:30am

1:00pm to 2:30pm

- **Rolls Building**

2nd Floor, East side public area - turn Right leaving the Public Lifts

9:30am to 11:00am

1:00pm to 2:30pm

No appointment necessary.

### **Additional Information**

**In England**, those who don't visit a court or tribunal site regularly, work from home, or where home delivery is more convenient, will be able to order home-testing kits online via the [new government scheme](#) from 9 April. Or you may be able to get a rapid test from an NHS site. The best way to find a location is to use the [NHS COVID-19 Test and Vaccination Site Finder](#).

If you have any additional questions, please do get in touch.

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