



Jury Trials

Your Safety is our Priority

Scottish Courts
and Tribunals Service



In whatever capacity you are taking part in a jury trial, your safety is our priority. These tables set out our commitment to you, and what we ask of you, to keep everyone involved safe. The measures we have and are taking are based on the latest guidance available from Public Health Scotland. In line with Scottish Government guidance, we strongly encourage everyone visiting our buildings – including jury centres – to take a Lateral Flow test before doing so. If that test is negative please make your visit as planned. If it is positive please self-isolate and follow the relevant advice, which can be found on the NHS Inform Website.

You should only attend if you:

- do not have symptoms of COVID-19
- have not been identified as a close contact by Test and Protect
- have not tested positive by PCR or lateral flow device (LFD).

Coming to court:

	You can expect us to:	You will be asked to:
1.	<p>Lay out the court room so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is enough space for physical distancing • everyone has a clear line of sight to the other people in the hearing <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 physical 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"> • waiting areas • deliberation rooms • consultation/private rooms • conference rooms • video link rooms • rooms for advocates <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>

<p>3. Face coverings</p>	<p>During court proceedings all those in the well of the court and the public areas must wear face coverings, even when seated, unless they are required to speak (e.g. as questioning counsel or witness)</p> <p>The requirement to wear a face covering includes the accused, subject to certain considerations around identification, discussed below*.</p> <p>Participants in proceedings may continue to wear face coverings when speaking if they wish to, but may be required by the judge or sheriff to remove them if there are issues of audibility or visibility.</p> <p>The presiding judge or sheriff will wear a face covering on entering or leaving the court, but may remove it when seated, in order to conduct the proceedings.</p> <p>Any requirement to wear a face covering is subject to any exemption provided for under government guidance. Nothing in these strengthened rules removes the requirement to maintain at least a 2m distance from others at all times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• *Identification: It may be considered that a requirement for an accused to remove their face covering purely for the means of identification is potentially prejudicial. Judges/sheriffs will therefore ask Crown and defence if identification is necessary. If so, the accused can be asked to remove a face covering before the relevant witness enters the court room. Once identification has been dealt with, the accused can be instructed to put the face covering back on.
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4.	SCTS have introduced contact tracing arrangements from all our buildings. We are using a GDPR-secure system Safe2Go .	<p>You scan a QR code, enter your details once and check in. Please check out when you leave. If you return to that building you only need to scan the code each time you enter and leave. A manual record will be available to complete if you do not have a smartphone.</p> <p>If we receive a request from the NHS for details of attendees at any of our buildings in relation to a COVID-19 infection, we can then request a report to be sent directly from the system to the NHS.</p> <p>At no point will the SCTS have access to those details. For information see the SCTS Test and Protect Guide. Please also download a QR code reader to make it easy to check in.</p>
5.	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.
6.	Give clear directions around the building to limit the number of times you will 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.
7.	Make sure there is a place for you to store any refreshments and personal belongings. We will not be supplying cups or glasses from which to drink.	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. Please note that separate arrangements will be in place for jurors only.
8.	Ensure that there is appropriate and regulated access to regularly cleaned toilet facilities.	Follow any instructions about the numbers allowed in toilet facilities at any one time.
9.	Make sure items such as keypads for doors and any materials to be handled are all wiped clean between uses.	Avoid touching anything you do not need to.

10.	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.
11.	Clean the building regularly, following public health guidance.	Let us know if you see something you think needs cleaning.
12.	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.

If you are a juror:

	You can expect us to:	You will be asked to:
1.	<p>Consider any application for excusal or exemption promptly. In addition to the standard excusal categories, we will excuse you from attendance if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have COVID 19 symptoms• are self-isolating <p>and we may excuse you, depending on individual circumstances, if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have underlying health conditions or other vulnerabilities• have caring responsibilities and/or are co-habiting with others <p>who have caring responsibilities for other vulnerable individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have difficulties accessing childcare• are a key worker	<p>If you are applying for excusal or exemption, please email the court using the email address on your citation.</p>
2.	<p>Provide you with a suitable face covering.</p>	<p>Bring your own face covering if you would prefer to wear your own. You must wear your face covering whilst travelling around the jury centre and until seated. You may remove your face covering once seated but can continue to wear your face covering during trial proceedings if you wish.</p>

3.	SCTS have introduced contact tracing arrangements from all our buildings. We are using a GDPR-secure system Safe2Go .	<p>You scan a QR code, enter your details once and check in. Please check out when you leave. If you return to that building you only need to scan the code each time you enter and leave. A manual record will be available to complete if you do not have a smartphone. If we receive a request from the NHS for details of attendees at any of our buildings in relation to a COVID-19 infection, we can then request a report to be sent directly from the system to the NHS.</p> <p>At no point will the SCTS have access to those details. For information see the SCTS Test and Protect Guide. Please also download a QR code reader to make it easy to check in.</p>
4.	Provide you with a sandwich lunch each day and a plentiful supply of water.	Let us know of any dietary requirements in advance.
5.	Provide access to regularly cleaned, dedicated toilet facilities.	Follow any instructions about the numbers allowed in toilet facilities at any one time.