

**Message from the Judge Advocate General and Director of the Military Court Service**  
**Dated 10 December 2021**

This document should be read in conjunction with other guidance available on the Military Court Service website. Because of the government introduction of “Plan B”, there will be some additional requirements to all our current COVID-19 mitigation measures as a condition of entry into the court centres:

- ALL participants and attendees must take a Lateral Flow Test the day before attendance (for those attending for a prolonged number of days, a mid-week test will also be required).
- Face coverings must be worn by everyone on entry to the court centre (unless exempt).
- A temperature test must be taken by everyone on entry to the court centre.
- Members of the public and press are also required to provide evidence of being fully vaccinated on entry to the court centre.
- Social distance of 1m must always be followed in all public areas.
- Members of the public and press are required to wear face coverings within the Courtroom.

You must not enter the Court Centre if:-

- You are displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19 and have not yet had a negative PCR test result.
- You have tested positive for the virus within the last 10 days.
- A member of your household has Covid-19 and EITHER you are not fully vaccinated OR the member of your household has been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of Covid-19. You may attend the court centre if a member of your household has Covid-19 but has not been identified as a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 AND you are fully vaccinated.
- You have been advised by NHS track and trace that you are to self-isolate, due to the emergence of new variants such as Omicron.

This decision will be subject to regular review.

The presumption that Plea and Trial Preparation Hearings (PTPHs) and other hearings will be held with all parties attending over live link will continue to apply. Judges will also consider whether witnesses can attend trials over live links and are likely to direct such a course more regularly than before the pandemic. Sentencing hearings with some or all of defendant/Defence Assisting Officer/counsel attending remotely are likely to continue, but this will be a matter for judicial discretion.

We are both very grateful for everyone’s continued support and patience during what is a difficult and challenging period.

**Alan Large, Judge Advocate General**

**Cleaven Faulkner, Director Military Court Service**

**12 December 2021**

