



## **COVID-19 - Attending Court**

This information is to ensure your safety and the safety of the court staff.

The significant increase in the incidence of COVID-19 coupled with the increase in rates of transmission makes it all the more important that footfall in our courts is kept to a minimum. Participants in legal proceedings should not be required to attend an inquest proceeding or pre-inquest review hearing in person unless it is necessary in the interests of justice. While the coroner must be physically present in court, he or she should, wherever possible, allow interested persons and others to attend remotely.

If you are a family member, interested person, witness, press or member of the public planning on attending a court hearing it is important that you contact the court office to advise us to expect you and provide the details of anyone who is attending with you.

The court has adopted measures to allow for social distancing which means that numbers in court need to be strictly managed in advance to avoid any unnecessary delays or cancellation to any hearing on the day.

Whilst our main courtroom is large and can hold a number of people our second court can only hold a very small number of occupants.

Please let us know of your attendance by contacting us on:

Tel: 01275 461920

Email: [avoncoronersteam@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:avoncoronersteam@bristol.gov.uk)

Upon arrival at the court you will be asked to provide your contact details as part of the track and trace service.

**On attendance it is important you adopt the following practices:**

- Face coverings must be worn at all times on the premises.
- Please use the hand sanitiser when you arrive and leave.
- Maintain social distancing of at least 2 meters (6 feet) distance between yourself and others.
- Enter the courtroom by the door to your right as you come in the main entrance and sit as directed by the court usher.
- If you are a witness giving evidence and wish to swear on a religious text please bring your own text with you.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Maintain respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the used tissue immediately in the bins provided.
- Make sure you bring sufficient food and bottled water with you for your visit.
- Leave the courtroom through the door marked EXIT.
- Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19 and follow advice given by your healthcare provider.

**Most importantly:**

- **Please do not attend court if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 which include fever, cough, difficulty breathing and loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste, seek medical advice early and stay at home.**

**PLEASE NOTE: As I am sure you will appreciate the situation is changing all the time so please check our website on the day of the hearing to ensure that it is still listed to go ahead, or indeed contact the court office. Your patience and understanding at this time is much appreciated.**