



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

Plymouth Combined Court
The Law Courts
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Monday 9th November 2020

Operational update for external court users regarding COVID-19

I write to update you that over the weekend we were notified of a small number of positive tests and a number of colleagues who have been identified by Test and Trace as 'close contacts' who have been asked to self-isolate. (Close contacts are defined as spending more than 15 minutes within two metres of somebody, face-to-face contact of less than one metre, skin-to-skin contact, or sharing a vehicle.)

We have referred this incident to Public Health England and the local Health Protection team to seek their further guidance. I understand that this situation may cause concern, but I want to assure you that we are taking this situation very seriously and are responding responsibly, proportionately and in accordance with NHS and public health guidance. The public parts of the building are not affected.

The measures we have put in place in all our buildings, as part of our Covid-19 risk management arrangements, are extensive and satisfy public health guidelines for a Covid-secure environment. These include strict social distancing – in our administration offices, as well as public areas of course - modified search on entry procedures, wearing of face coverings in all public areas and frequent cleaning. Our buildings are not considered 'close contact' settings.

If there had been [close contact with anybody](#) you would be notified immediately by the court or tribunal you attended, as well as NHS Track and Trace.

No-one else needs to self-isolate or change what you are doing. However, like everyone during the current situation, you should be aware of and look out for any [symptoms of COVID-19](#), such as:

- A new, continuous cough
- fever (a temperature of 37.8°C or higher)
- loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

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If you develop symptoms, however mild, at any point, you should follow the [guidance and stay at home for 10 days](#) from when your symptoms started and refer to the [testing guidance on GOV.UK](#).

If you need to seek medical advice, please refer to the [NHS 111 online coronavirus service](#) in the first instance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this incident, please do contact me.

Regards,

Jan Skaith

Mrs Jan Skaith
Operations Manager for South & West Devon Courts