

Ministry of Justice

COVID-19 Stakeholder Update / 27.05.20

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The Ministry of Justice COVID-19 Stakeholder Update signposts the latest COVID-19 news and guidance from government. To help us ensure our communications continue to meet your needs, we would be grateful if you could answer **five quick questions** and share your views. Responses are anonymous. **The survey can be found [here](#).**

- We have robust and flexible plans to ensure we can continue to deliver key services across the justice system.
- [Independent public health monitoring](#) suggests the steps we have taken are successfully limiting deaths and the transmission of coronavirus in prisons. Those measures include restricted regimes and social distancing within prisons, the early release of low-risk offenders approaching their release date, creating more space with 500 temporary cells and the re-opening of a formerly closed prison at Medway.
- Our priority is to make sure we can keep everyone in courts safe. Some courts have now, with approval from Public Health England and Public Health Wales, begun the resumption of jury trials with new juries having been sworn in at Cardiff Crown Court, The Old Bailey, Manchester Minshull Street and Bristol Crown Court.

HMCTS

NEW: HMCTS has published a Q&A that outlines guidance for regular court users. It includes detail on the new protocol for security checks in court buildings, additional cleanliness and hygiene measures, and arrangements for jurors, witnesses and the public. Read the full Q&A here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-courts-and-tribunals-planning-and-preparation#assessing-and-managing-coronavirus-risk>

During this unprecedented public health emergency, we are adjusting practices and taking steps to minimise the risk to the judiciary, court staff and users. Any changes to individual hearings will be communicated directly to those affected in the usual way, by email and/or phone. The following page will continue to be updated when new advice is available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-courts-and-tribunals-planning-and-preparation>

HMPPS

Prisons and probation services have implemented significant changes to comply with the Government's social distancing rules and to protect staff and service users. The service has been working closely with public health experts, as well as criminal justice partners, to ensure that robust contingency plans are in place and immediate action can be taken wherever cases are identified. The following page will continue to be updated when new advice is available: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-and-prisons>

As of 17:00 on TUESDAY 26 MAY:

- 447 prisoners have tested positive for COVID-19 across 77 prisons;
- 882 prison staff have tested positive for COVID-19 across 104 prisons;
- 26 Prisoner Escort and Custody Services (PECS) staff have tested positive for COVID-19.

These figures reflect the total number of recorded positive cases – not the number of live cases – of COVID-19, and includes individuals that have recovered. Figures are interim and are subject to revision as more information becomes available. As prisons have moved towards a more robust way of reporting COVID-19 staff cases, further evaluation of the data led to the total being revised – as flagged in yesterday's stakeholder update. The overall declining trend in new cases continues.

Latest general guidance

- All UK Government Coronavirus guidance and support: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- Staying alert and safe (social distancing): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>
- The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-to-rebuild-the-uk-governments-covid-19-recovery-strategy>
- Find out how to make your workplace COVID-secure: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Getting financial help and keeping your business safe: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>

Please continue to refer to [GOV.UK/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest information on the situation in the UK and the Government's response. For information about the illness and symptoms visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

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