



Court Users

(Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ)

Do I need to be fully vaccinated to be a trial participant in a jury or Judge Alone matter?

No. You do not need to be fully vaccinated if you are a participant in a jury or Judge Alone matter. This includes legal practitioners, witnesses, defendants, interpreters and jurors.

Do I need to wear a mask?

Yes. The wearing of masks is mandatory in all court premises unless you meet the requirements for an exemption under the Public Health Order and can provide evidence to support this.

What has been put in place to ensure my safety?

The Office of the Sheriff has worked with NSW Health to implement measures to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19. This includes compliance with physical distancing where possible, QR code check-in (optional), use of hand sanitiser, additional cleaning, Rapid Antigen Self-Testing and individually packed meals for jurors.

What is Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)?

RAT is quick and easy. It involves a self-administered saliva swab using a small sponge lollipop-like instrument that is placed into the mouth. This instrument is then placed into a cassette to determine results.

RAT differs from the PCR test, which involves taking a deep nasal sample and throat sample and is tested in a laboratory. Rapid Antigen Testing is a tool to help detect COVID-19 in people without any symptoms.

RAT displays a result within approximately 10-15 minutes.

Will I be required to undergo Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT)?

Yes. All jury and Judge Alone trial participants will be required to undergo RAT on the first day of the trial and every 48 hours until the completion of the case.

RAT will be conducted at all District and Supreme Court locations.

What can I expect on the first day of a jury or Judge Alone trial?

On the first day of the trial, participants will need to arrive at least 30 minutes earlier in order to undertake a RAT prior to the commencement of court.

If results to the RAT are negative, court participants will be permitted to continue to trial, or jurors will be permitted to continue to engage in an induction to prepare for jury service, if selected.

What do I do if I have tested positive to COVID or need to self-isolate?

If you are a juror, you are advised to contact **1300 722 574** as soon as possible to notify the Office of the Sheriff and receive further instructions. You may be required to provide evidence to confirm your requirement to self-isolate. Under no circumstances should you attend the court.

If you are a court participant, other than a juror, you must contact the Associate to the relevant Trial Judge to advise of this information as soon as possible. A list of Associate contact details is available on the [District Court's website](#).

Where can I access more information if I am a juror?

If you are a juror, information relating to Jury Service can be found at juror.nsw.gov.au/home