

Event Research Programme Information

Events Research Programme

The government's publication of 22 February, 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' ('the roadmap'), describes plans to explore when and how events with larger crowd sizes, less social distancing, or in settings where transmission is more likely, will be able to return safely.

The Events Research Programme will oversee this work, bringing findings from across different settings and different sectors to determine a consistent approach to lifting restrictions on events to inform Step 4 of the roadmap. In Step 4, which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact, and to reopen remaining premises, including nightclubs, and ease restrictions on large events, performances, weddings and other life events. More information on the roadmap can be found [here](#).

The Events Research Programme will use pilot events incorporating research studies in April, May and June 2021 to build evidence on the risks associated with coronavirus transmission, the characteristics of events and surrounding activities, and the most effective steps for reducing these risks. The evidence from these studies will be used to inform the government's decision around Step 4 of the roadmap and will shape government policy to bring about the phased return of fuller audiences to venues and events up and down England.

The pilot events will examine a range of factors, including but not limited to, indoor and outdoor settings; small and large venues; seated and standing events; different forms of audience participation; transport to and from events; duration; and ventilation.

Royal Ascot

You will be attending Royal Ascot as a participant in a research study within the Events Research Programme. The Secretary of State has the power to designate such an event as being permitted for research purposes and therefore not subject to the legal restrictions which would apply to other events under Step 3 of the government's roadmap. Although steps are being taken to reduce the additional risk of COVID infection this might introduce, you should make sure you are comfortable with the risk set out below.

Royal Ascot takes place annually at Ascot Racecourse. In 2021 this takes place between Tuesday 15 June to Saturday 19 June. Venue capacity will be capped at approx 17% of usual Royal Ascot levels, c12,000 spectators. Social distancing inside the venue will not be required but you must follow all directions provided by the Safety Management Team at the venue.

Testing

All participants will be adults and admission to the event will be subject to evidence of a negative Lateral Flow Device test result for Covid-19 carried out in person at an Asymptomatic Test Site close to where you live or work/or at home or through home testing.

A negative Lateral Flow Device result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus but does not guarantee that you or other participants do not have coronavirus, so you must keep following all social distancing advice before and after your participation in the event.

A positive result from a Lateral Flow Device means it's likely you had coronavirus when the test was done. You and anyone you live with must not attend the event and self-isolate immediately. You are then advised to get a PCR test (a test that is sent to a lab) to confirm your result as soon as possible.

It is a condition of the ticket sale that the participants are tested for Covid 19.

To aid our research, participants are also requested to undertake a PCR test on the day of attendance at the event and again five days after attendance at the event. These tests can be conducted at home and these will be distributed to you using the contact details provided.

Research & Consent

Further details about your event, and what will be required of you to support the research at the event can be found in this information sheet. The document includes information about the purpose of the study, how your data will be used, and who to contact if you have further questions.

About you

Attendance at this event is at your own risk; you are liable should you test positive for COVID-19 following the event. It is your responsibility to decide whether or not it is appropriate for you to attend this event. This decision should be based upon your own health status and susceptibility to infection, and that of members of your family, social bubble or, where applicable, your support bubble, together with an assessment of your own attitude to the potential risks.

You cannot attend if you are under 16. Those considered to be clinically vulnerable, live with someone clinically vulnerable, or are pregnant are advised not to attend the pilot events given the fact that some of the pilots in the ERP will be testing non-social distancing and the safety risk associated with the relaxation of NPIs (Non Pharmaceutical Interventions).

You must respect the social distancing needs of others and avoid acting in any way that might risk the health of fellow participants and staff working at the venue. For example, if the event organiser requires you to wear a face covering at all times in the venue, or in certain sections, you must adhere to this requirement. At the same time, the event organiser and fellow participants should be aware that some disabled people may not be able to follow all the social distancing and other measures put in place, including the wearing of face coverings.

About risk

No event can be completely safe. In the most recent week of complete data (14 May 2021 - 20 May 2021), 19 cases were identified in Windsor and Maidenhead, a rate of 12.5 cases per 100,000 population. This would suggest that, without any testing, there would be 1.5 people with Coronavirus attending this event each day. The use of testing prior to the event will reduce the risk of people infected by coronavirus attending the event but this risk cannot be entirely eliminated.

General Consent

1. I confirm that I have read and have understood the information sheet contained here explaining the information that will be collected and have had the opportunity to consider the information.
2. I understand that all personal information I provide will be safeguarded and protected according to data protection legislation. It will be held in an anonymised format and only accessed by those with a research need.
3. The research programme is being run by the following government departments, university partner organisations and businesses. We will share your data with these bodies who are acting as processors of your personal data.
 - a. Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport
 - b. Department of Health and Social Care
 - c. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial strategy
 - d. Researchers in accordance with the Information Sheet on Research Studies (below)
4. I understand that all data including signed consent forms, demographic information, test results and audio/video recordings and interview transcripts will be retained for up to 6 years although anonymised data may be kept for longer periods.
5. I understand that, under the Data Protection Act 2018, I can ask at any time for access to/destruction of the information I provide, which will be possible if I provide contact details at the end of the survey.
6. I understand that taking part in a study may involve an individual interview which will be audio recorded. Separate consent will be sought in relation to participation in any interview.
7. I understand that my participation in any interview is voluntary and that I am free to stop taking part at any time without giving any reason and without my rights being affected. In addition, I understand that I am free to decline to answer any particular question or questions.
8. I understand that the confidentiality of the information I provide will be safeguarded. However, if I disclose information which raises serious concerns over the immediate

safety of myself or others, with prior discussion, I understand that the researcher may be required to disclose some of my confidential information to an appropriate health professional.

9. I understand that the information I provide will be held securely. It will be anonymised and in line with data protection requirements and will only be accessed by researchers working on this or related studies.
10. I understand that I will not be identified or identifiable and give permission for quotes to be used in the report or reports that result from the research.

We will not use your data for any automated decision making.

We will not be sending your personal data outside the U.K.

Information Sheet for the Events Research Programme

This information sheet provides further details about the research studies that will be conducted at Royal Ascot.

These studies are led by organisations who act as data controllers for the data they collect directly at each event.

If you have any concerns, issues or queries regarding the study or how it will be undertaken please contact **events-research-programme-queries@dcms.gov.uk**

1. Public Health England

Public Health England will be analysing the data available from test results to describe the prevalence of COVID -19 infection in those attending events, and whether this was transmitted to others at the venue. It will also be used to assess how well lateral flow devices perform in preventing outbreaks of COVID-19 occurring at these events.

Once the event has been completed, data from those who attended will be linked to a dataset containing test results and vaccination status. The data will then be anonymised. This data package will be stored in a secure research environment for access by named researchers to undertake the analysis of the data.

What is the purpose of this study?

To investigate the impact that performing pre-event lateral flow tests has on the risk of transmission of coronavirus at mass events. Whether any transmission has occurred at the event or not will be checked by PCR tests performed before and after the event (in addition to the lateral flow test). PCR tests that are positive will undergo further genetic analysis to see if any of the infections are linked. The impact of different levels of social distancing and face coverings on transmission risk will also be evaluated.

Who is doing the study?

The study is being delivered by Public Health England and the University of Liverpool.

Who is being asked to participate?

Everyone who attends an Events Research Programme event.

Do I have to take part?

In order to enter the event you must have completed the pre-event testing. However, participation in the research study is voluntary and you are free to withdraw your participation at any time.

What will be involved if I take part in this study?

If you agree to take part, you will be required to submit three coronavirus tests. The first two tests take place **before** the event (a lateral flow test in the 36 hours before the event, and a PCR test in the 24 hours before the event); the third test takes place five days **after** the event (a PCR test). If you are attending an event over multiple days, you will also be required to complete a new lateral flow test every three days to make sure you are still safe to attend the event.

What are the advantages/benefits and disadvantages/risks of taking part in the study?

The benefit is the opportunity to contribute to the research around how events can restart safely during the pandemic. There is a small risk that your pre-event lateral flow test may be a false positive. If this happens, you will be required to self-isolate and complete a PCR test to confirm whether the lateral flow test was correct. You will not be able to attend the event whilst self-isolating. There are also risks associated with attending the event itself

Can I withdraw from the study at any time?

Yes you can withdraw your participation at any time. You can do this by contacting events-research-programme-queries@dcms.gov.uk

Will the information obtained in the study be confidential?

Yes, all information will be held confidentially. The analysis will be performed on anonymous data and no identifiable information will be published.

What will happen to the results of the study?

Public Health England and the University of Liverpool will use the results to write a report which will inform Government policy around how events can be delivered safely during the pandemic.

Who has reviewed this study?

The Public Health England Research Ethics and Governance group has approved this study.

Who do I contact in the event of a complaint?

If you would like to make a complaint, please contact events-research-programme-queries@dcms.gov.uk

2. Airborne Infection Reduction through Building Operation and Design for SARS-CoV-2 (AIRBODS)

AIRBODS is a joint research programme between Loughborough University, University College London, the University of Cambridge, the University of Nottingham, the University of Sheffield and London South Bank University. AIRBODS is a UKRI-funded project which aims to quantify the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in buildings, and thereby offer guidance on the ventilation operation and future design of non-domestic buildings.

The team's role in the Events Research Programme is to collect environmental data around the venue. We will do this by monitoring indoor air quality (measuring and recording CO₂ levels, air temperature and relative humidity - moisture content) in the air at different locations around the venue, and relating this to the number of people present. This data will be used to determine a Relative Exposure Index. This is not an absolute measure of the risk of transmission, but a measure of exposure relative to a benchmark case.

3. Movement Strategies

Movement Strategies will be undertaking observations at and around the venue to categorise the behaviour of attendees in response to the event itself and also the operational overlay implemented as part of the pilot programme.

Data will be collected via camera and manual observations and will focus on attendees conducting routine ('public') activities typically monitored at such events as part of standard safety and security measures. During these observations, the team will not be interacting with or asking anyone to do anything beyond their normal attendance.

The team will also analyse various data sources post-event (e.g. CCTV footage) to measure different behaviours that may influence the risk of transmission within different settings. Any data captured will be stored, analysed and disposed of in a secure manner, consistent with legal requirements and industry best practice.

A small sample of attendees may be asked to wear tracking devices for a period of time during their attendance. The wearing of this device is entirely voluntary. These attendees will be asked for their consent giving permission for them to wear this device. This device enables their movement (paths, locations, etc.) to be tracked within the event. No other information is generated. The data will not be associated with the individual's identity. At any point, the participant can return the device and stop being tracked in this way.

Privacy Notice

Who is collecting my data?

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) are collecting your data and acting as overall controllers. Your data is also collected by the Event Research team when you consent to the Event Research Program. Your data is also collected by the event organisers either directly or via a ticketing agent. When you are asked to complete the Covid 19 tests your data is collected by Test and Trace. Test results will be used for the Transmission Research Study (conducted by Public Health England) and anonymous data will be used by other research programmes (please see info sheet for more information on these studies).

Why are we collecting your data?

We are collecting your data to allow a full assessment of the risks associated with coronavirus transmission for participants attending mass events, and to understand the extent to which mitigation measures can effectively address these risks.

What is the legal basis for processing my data?

DCMS does not directly collect or see any personal data, however, we are defined as the controller under U.K. GDPR Art. 4, 'controller' means the natural or legal person, public authority, agency, or other body which, alone or jointly with others, determines the purposes and means of the processing of personal data.

To process this personal data, our legal reason for collecting or processing this data is Article 6(1) e; processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

Admission to the venues implies that you have had a negative Lateral Flow Test result which is classed as health data. The DCMS and the venue rely on the UK.GDPR Art. 9 (2) h. processing is necessary for the purposes of preventive or occupational medicine, for the assessment of the working capacity of the employee, medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment, or the management of health or social care systems and services on the basis of domestic law or pursuant to contract with a health professional and subject to the conditions and safeguards.

The venue will also rely on U.K. GDPR Art. 6 (1) b processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract;

The lawful basis that we rely on to process your personal data will determine which of the following rights are available to you. Much of the processing we do in DCMS will be necessary to meet our legal obligations or to perform a public task. If we hold personal data about you in different parts of DCMS for different purposes, then the legal basis we rely on in each case may not be the same

What personal data do we collect?

DCMS does not directly collect any of your data the personal data is collected by the ticketing agent. This data includes First name, last name, address, postcode, gender, date of birth, and email addresses. the ticketing agent then shares that data with the Department for Health and Social Care/Test and Trace/Public Health England. When you take the Covid tests that data will remain within the NHS it will not be shared with any other party.

What is personal data?

Personal data is any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural living person, otherwise known as a 'data subject'. A data subject is someone who can be recognised, directly or indirectly, by information such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier, or data relating to their physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural, or social identity. These types of identifying information are known as 'personal data'. Data protection law applies to the processing of personal data, including its collection, use, and storage.

How secure is your information with third-party service providers?

All our third-party service providers are required to take appropriate security measures to protect your personal data in line with our policies. We do not allow our third-party service providers to use your personal data for their own purposes unless they are data controllers in their own right in relation to your personal data. Where they operate as our "data processors" (ie they process your personal data on our behalf and acting only on our instructions), we only permit them to process your personal data for specified purposes and in accordance with our instructions

What will happen if I do not provide this data?

If you do not provide your consent to enter the programme and provide your data you will not be invited to the events.

We will not use your data for any automated decision making.

We will not be sending your personal data outside the U.K.

What are your data protection rights?

You have rights over your personal data under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is the supervisory authority for data protection legislation and maintains a full explanation of these rights on their website. <https://ico.org.uk/>

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

The contact details for the data controller's Data Protection Officer (DPO) are:

Data Protection Officer

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

100 Parliament Street

London

SW1A 2BQ

Email: DCMSdataprotection@dcms.gov.uk

If you're unhappy with the way we have handled your personal data and want to make a complaint, please write to the department's Data Protection Officer or the Data Protection Manager at the relevant agency. You can contact the department's Data Protection Officer using the details above.