

Events Research Programme Information

Events Research Programme

The UK Government's publication of 22 February, 'COVID-19 Response – Spring 2021' ('the roadmap'), describes plans to explore how events with larger crowd sizes will be able to return safely.

The Events Research Programme ("**ERP**") will oversee this work, developing 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.

The ERP will use pilot events incorporating research studies to build evidence on Covid 19 transmission risk, by examining the characteristics of events, 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 to bring about the phased return of fuller audiences to venues and events.

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; ventilation, movement and behaviours, the suspension of NPIs (face masks and social distancing), testing and the use of the, NHS Covid Pass.

Your event

You will be attending the event you are interested in as a participant in a research study within the ERP. 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 19 transmission, you should make sure you are comfortable with the risk set out below.

Pilot event details:

Festival of Speed presented by Mastercard

Thursday 8th – Sunday 11th July 2021

Social distancing and face coverings will not be required inside the event but you must follow all directions provided by the event organiser at the event. Attendees will be required to follow existing [Safer Travel](#) guidance when travelling to and from the Festival of Speed and adhere to rules set out by the event organisers.

Testing

For all ticket holders aged 11 and over, admission to the event will be subject to providing evidence of:

- A negative NHS lateral flow result for COVID-19 carried out at home or in person at an Asymptomatic Test Site close to where you live or work, and which has been taken no more than 48 hours before attending the event. Proof of a negative lateral flow test must be demonstrated via text message or email; or

- For ticket holders registered with a GP in England (and over 16 years old) , full vaccination status as demonstrated via the NHS App Covid Pass. Full vaccination status consists of two doses of a vaccine, with the second dose administered more than 14 days prior to attending the event. .

Attendees under the age of 11 will not need to present a negative lateral flow test (or be fully vaccinated) in order to attend the event.

A positive result from a lateral flow test means it's likely you had COVID-19 when the test was done. You and anyone you live with must not attend the event and must self-isolate immediately. You must order a follow up PCR test and follow NHS Test and Trace guidance.

For those aged 11 and over, it is a condition for you to enter the event that you present a negative NHS lateral flow test or proof of vaccination status on entry to the event.

Research & Consent

Further details about the event, and what will be required of you to support the research at the event can be found in the Information Sheet (below). 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 will be required to take a lateral flow test pre-event or to provide your vaccine status via the NHS App in order to enter the event . There is no age limit on those attending these events and children under the age of 11 will not be required to take a lateral flow test pre-event.

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. The Office for National Statistics estimate that for the week ending June 12 2021 about 1 in 520 people in England were infected with Coronavirus. The use of testing prior to the event will reduce the risk of people infected by COVID-19 attending the event but this risk cannot be entirely eliminated.

The latest updates on COVID-19 infections in the UK can be found [here](#).

Information Sheet for the Events Research Programme

This information sheet provides further details about the research studies that may be conducted at the event.

These studies are led by organisations who act as data controllers for the data they collect directly from 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 tests perform in preventing outbreaks of COVID-19 occurring at these events.

Once the event has been completed, subject to attendees' consent where necessary under the UK GDPR, data from those who attended will be linked to a dataset of future positive COVID-19 test results. 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 impacts that performing pre-event lateral flow tests and attending the event have on the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at mass events. 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.

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 may be asked to complete surveys in relation to your attendance at the event, as well as to agree for your personal data to be shared with Public Health England

(as explained in the Privacy Notice provided to you). 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. There are also risks associated with attending the event itself (please see section above “About you” and “About risk”).

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 research 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 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