

Frequently asked questions about in-person and hybrid hearings

Starting July 15, 2022, the BIIA is offering parties the opportunity to participate in hearings held remotely, in-person, or as a hybrid event.

What do these terms mean?

- **Remote:** all participants appear by Zoom or telephone.
- **In-person:** all participants appear in person in a hearing room.
- **Hybrid:** some participants appear in person in a hearing room with the judge and others appear remotely.

Where can I schedule an in-person or hybrid hearing?

- At this time, we are only scheduling in-person or hybrid events at our BIIA locations in Everett, Lakewood, and Olympia. If you request a hearing in one of these locations, please understand that hearing space is limited. However, we still need to schedule timely hearings. If we do not have an available hearing room, the judge will hold your timely hearing by either Zoom or telephone.

What happens on the day of the hearing?

- Everyone entering a BIIA facility is subject to COVID-19 symptom and exposure screening, which is comprised of the standard CDC screening questions.

What happens if I have COVID symptoms, recent exposure, or refuse to answer the questions?

- Anyone who has recent COVID symptoms, recent exposure, or refuses to answer the questions will not be allowed into a BIIA facility. Instead, we will inform your judge and the judge will determine how the hearing will proceed. **A continuance is not necessarily the next step.**

Will the judge ask me about my vaccination status?

- No.

Do I have to wear a mask?

- No. However, we encourage everyone to wear a mask and will offer one to you.

Will the judge be wearing a mask?

- Yes. State employees are required to wear masks when working indoors with members of the public.