

# COVID-19 Lockdown (from 5 November 2020)

On Saturday 31 October, the Prime Minister announced a pre-Christmas 'circuit breaker' lockdown for England, from 5 November to 2 December 2020, when the lockdown will be reviewed.

The aim is to bring COVID-19 case numbers down using four weeks of increased restrictions. This document sets out how the University of Reading will be operating during this lockdown period.

During the lockdown, travel, socialising and other activity is restricted. **Government guidance** makes clear that educational settings, including universities, will remain open during this time, and there are exceptions to the travel restrictions for educational purposes. Guidance for universities has been issued by the **Department for Education**. You can find out more at [www.reading.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.reading.ac.uk/coronavirus) or you can contact the University's COVID-19 Support Line on **0118 214 7813** between 09:00 and 17:00 on weekdays and 11:00 and 16:00 on weekends.

Activity	
<b>Teaching</b>	Blended online and face-to-face teaching approach continues as currently timetabled, subject to individual circumstances and risk assessments, with strict adherence to all safety and mitigation measures. Face coverings should be worn in teaching settings where this does not impact teaching and learning.
<b>Study space (individual study only, no group study)</b>	Bookable study space in the Library. Non-bookable space in URS building and other locations around campus, including halls and The Study at RUSU. Some limitations may apply.
<b>Student Support</b>	Blended approach continues. Reception desks open for drop-in queries. Limitations may apply to pre-booking face-to-face appointments.
<b>Research</b>	Continuation of research on campus, subject to risk assessment and social distancing, prioritising research that cannot be feasibly conducted from home or without gathering of individuals. Where reasonable, in-person research activity requiring gathering with others should be paused for the period of national restrictions.  Local restrictions or additional safety measures may apply.
<b>Technical Services</b>	Support for permitted on-site teaching, practical activities and research.  Filming for online teaching provision.
<b>Library, museums and collections</b>	Special collections reading room and Library (with reduced hours) to remain open, with strict adherence to safety measures. Click and collect service to continue. Museums closed.
<b>Grounds and buildings</b>	Most buildings and grounds open during normal working hours, regular maintenance ongoing. Some access restrictions for buildings where usage is low. Some service response times extended due to additional safe working practices.
<b>Halls</b>	All halls of residence to remain open and full services provided, subject to safety measures. Support continues for those who need to self-isolate.
<b>Food, accommodation, sport and recreation</b>	Catering facilities move to takeaway only in our retail areas. Catered students will continue to be able to book tables to dine in. SportsPark and other sporting facilities closed. Bars closed but providing takeaway drinks service.  Some catering areas may become 'residents only' to prioritise resident students.
<b>RUSU</b>	Most services moved online however the RUSU building will remain open for study space and reception queries.  Starbucks and food outlets will operate takeaway provision. Bars will be closed. Social activities including clubs & societies will all move online. Nursery open, operating in line with government guidance.  Societies to operate virtually.
<b>Office-based working</b>	Continued home-working where that is feasible and appropriate, in agreement with line manager. Limited office based working with ongoing social distancing and subject to risk assessment to support prioritised on-campus activity.
<b>Events</b>	Delivery of virtual events only. All meetings to take place digitally.  All face-to-face student recruitment activities to cease.