

Important COVID-19 update: follow up on government changes to legal restrictions

Dear students,

I'm sure you've seen that the government yesterday announced a series of steps to remove remaining COVID-19 legal restrictions in England. This email sets out our arrangements in response for the rest of the spring term.

The safety of our students and colleagues, and our ability to continue your teaching and the other services you need, are our main priority. Even if the strict legal restrictions are changing, the government's [Living with COVID guidance](#) still recommends that we all take simple steps to prevent the spread of COVID. As such, we will be retaining certain control measures for the rest of the spring term at least.

### **What to do if you have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19**

From Thursday, 24 February, the government is removing the legal requirements around self-isolation. However, the public health guidance continues to be that those who test positive are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

As such, if you have any of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell) OR you test positive for COVID-19 through a lateral flow or PCR test, we ask that you avoid attending teaching or use campus facilities:

- until you test negative on a lateral flow test **OR**
- until your symptoms have gone, up to a period of up to 7 days, if you are not able to access a lateral flow test.

### **Other control measures that we are retaining**

The following measures will be in place for at least the remainder of this term:

- **Face coverings:** we continue to encourage the wearing of face coverings when you are in crowded places or when moving around inside buildings, in line with the [Living with COVID guidance](#).
- **Reporting:** we ask that you continue to use the [online reporting form](#) if you test positive. If you live in Halls, please report via the Home at Halls app. Reporting allows us to provide support as required and to spot any trends or signs of possible outbreaks.
- **Lifts:** for the safety of those who face mobility challenges, or those who need to use lifts for their work, lifts should only be used by those who need them and only one person at a time should use lifts.
- **Hand sanitiser stations** will remain available across our campuses.
- **Enhanced cleaning** regimes will be retained.

### **Vaccination and testing**

Vaccination remains the most effective measure to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The vaccine van will return on 14-18 March for first and second vaccinations and boosters. We will follow up with details closer to the time.

Lateral flow tests will continue to be available from the Library Monday to Thursday 1-4pm until further notice. You can also get them from pharmacies, community collection points or [order them online](#).

As noted, these provisions will remain in place for the rest of this term. Learning to “live with COVID” will be an ongoing process for all of us, that we will take at our own pace, so please continue to be considerate of others around you and respectful of their preferences.

Kind regards,

Paddy

Dr Paddy Woodman

Director of Student Services