

To: all students

Date: 10 December 2021

Subject: Important COVID-19 update: follow up on new government restrictions

This message is being sent urgently to all students and we recognise that this may include some who have recently completed their studies. Please ignore this message if you are not a current University of Reading student.

We have now had an opportunity to review the [government's Wednesday announcements](#) and the current national and local case numbers in more detail. The only major update since my [email on Wednesday](#) relates to extended requirements around face coverings.

In addition to shops and public transport, there are some other places on campus where it is a **legal requirement** from today, Friday 10 December, to wear a face covering:

- the Library
- places of worship, which we are interpreting to include our on-campus Chaplaincy and Muslim Centre
- our University museums.

Face coverings are not legally required in restaurants, cafes, bars, gyms and nightclubs, although we continue to encourage their use when you are moving around indoors.

You can read the full requirements on the [government website](#) so please take a few moments to read these carefully.

Plans for the spring term

As noted on Wednesday, our plans for the spring term are unchanged and we look forward to welcoming you back on campus for face-to-face teaching. It remains the case that, at this stage, we will not be making provision for at-a-distance study.

Clearly, the situation remains changeable, and we are working on contingency plans to cover a range of possible developments. I want to assure you that all these are based on maximising in-person teaching to the greatest degree we can, within both safety and legal requirements, as we know how important this is to you.

We continue to strongly encourage take up of vaccinations and boosters, and daily LFT testing if you are coming on to campus. All these precautions will help us keep our campuses safe for those working and studying here, and every step we take now minimises the risk of more significant disruption in the spring term.

We understand that these new provisions will be in place for 6 weeks with a review after 3 weeks. The situation will no doubt remain changeable so please continue to check your University email account, [the student app](#) and Me@Reading regularly over the festive break in case we have any important updates for you. In the meantime, if you need help or advice, you can contact your [Support Centre \(or Henley Helpdesk or ISLI Admin Office\)](#).

Best wishes,

Paddy

Dr Patricia (Paddy) Woodman

Director of Student Services