

Date: 08 January 2021

Subject: Important COVID-19 update: government announces new restrictions

To: All students

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.

Following the government's announcement of new COVID-19 restrictions, I wanted to update you on what we know so far and confirm that **in-person teaching will continue as scheduled for the rest of the term**, and all other facilities will remain open, including the Library and study space.

We anticipate that specific guidance for universities will be available later this evening or tomorrow, but at this stage, we know that the following measures will come into force:

- face coverings will be required in most public indoor settings from Friday 10 December
- people should work from home where possible, subject to a number of exemptions, from Monday 13 December
- vaccine passports will be required for larger events from later next week.

Teaching for the rest of the autumn term

As there is an **exemption for in-person teaching and learning, and related activities**, we will continue to deliver teaching and other activities on campus. So please continue to attend any in-person teaching as normal. The Library and other study spaces across campus will remain open as advertised and the Support Centres and Carrington Helpdesk will also continue to provide in-person service.

Return to campus for spring term

Should the new rules remain in place into the spring term, we still anticipate that the education exemption will allow us to return to on-campus teaching as planned, with no provision for ongoing at-a-distance study. We will obviously keep this under close review, and adjust this position if government requirements change or if the health and wellbeing of our community requires.

Travel over the Christmas holiday season

The government has **not** placed any restrictions on student travel, or announced a student 'travel window', as it has previously.

However, the latest changes demonstrate that the COVID-19 situation remains changeable, so please think carefully about your travel plans. If you are intending to travel overseas, you should familiarise yourself with and monitor the testing and quarantine requirements to re-enter the UK. Our [Quarantine Support Package](#) is available to help with costs related to quarantine or testing when returning to the UK. If you have used the support package already this year, costs of quarantine or testing will not be covered by the university.

We will update you by the end of the week once we have had the opportunity to review the new provisions in detail. Please continue to check your University email account, [the student app](#) and [Me@Reading](#) regularly in the coming days, including over the festive break, to be sure you don't miss any important information. In the meantime, if you need help or advice, please contact your [Support Centre \(or Henley Helpdesk or ISLI Admin Office\)](#).

Best wishes,

Paddy

Dr Patricia (Paddy) Woodman

Director of Student Services