

Coronavirus (COVID-19): changes to campus services

Dear students,

The government yesterday issued updated advice advising people to avoid non-essential gatherings and crowded places. At a time of uncertainty and rapidly changing government advice, I understand that people are increasingly anxious and some students have now made the decision to return home. We totally understand this.

The government advice makes clear that everyone should minimise non-essential gatherings and activities. This includes going to pubs, clubs and restaurants and using public transport. We strongly recommend, for your health and wellbeing, that you follow this advice.

In light of these updated recommendations, and for the safety and wellbeing of our whole community, the following services will be changing:

- Food service will be available for students who have meal plans and others remaining on campus at:
 - Park Eat (including Park Market) on Whiteknights campus from 8am to 8pm Monday to Sunday, including the vacation period.
 - The Dairy on the London Road campus from 8am to 5pm (with no alcohol service) until 5pm this Friday, 20 March, when it will close.
- All other University restaurants, bars and cafés (including the Library café) will close from today until government advice changes.
- We have been working closely with RUSU and they have confirmed changes to their services and facilities in light of the government advice. You can read more on their [website](#).
- The Library will operate vacation hours (from 8.30am to 5pm) from today. Online services will continue to be available so that colleagues and students can continue with their work remotely and you can contact the Library team at library@reading.ac.uk. Study@URS will remain open while ongoing arrangements are reviewed.
- The SportsPark will close from 10pm on Friday 20 March until further notice. More information will be available on their [website](#). Until then, class sizes will be limited to ensure participants have extra space.

Reading Buses have advised today that the Claret 21a term-time service will stop running from tomorrow, Wednesday 18 March. The 21 service will continue and will stop on campus. We are currently talking to external providers Co-op and Santander about their plans and will communicate these as soon as possible.

In light of this updated government advice, we fully recognise that many students will wish to return home and continue their studies remotely. By moving teaching online and with access to Library services online, we will support you to do this. If you do decide to leave, you must let us know by completing the [online departure form](#).

For those who cannot return home at this time, please know that we are here to support you. As we support colleagues to move to increased home-working, in light of government recommendations, you will see some changes to how this support is provided. Student Support Services will remain available and we will update you soon about any changes to delivery. If you are remaining in Reading and need to self-isolate in Halls, please complete an [online self-isolation form](#) so that we can provide you with the necessary support. I am sure you will join me in thanking those colleagues who will remain on site to keep important services like cleaning, catering and security running.

We are actively working on contingency plans for exams and as explained yesterday, we will update you on arrangements for the summer term, including exams, by Monday 23 March. We are doing everything we can to ensure that you are able to progress your studies as expected.

As you know, the situation continues to change rapidly, and we will continue to keep you updated on any major developments. Please also continue to check the [Essentials pages](#) for the latest information. If you have any questions that are not answered by our online FAQs, please contact coronavirus-students@reading.ac.uk.

Finally, please continue to observe [NHS advice](#) on hygiene and self-isolation if you develop a high temperature or a new persistent cough.

Best wishes,
Patricia

Dr Patricia Woodman
Director of Student Services