



Dear Student,

Return to College – Initial Arrangements

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you in response to the announcement in Parliament from the Prime Minister earlier this week, in which details for the 'roadmap' for the lifting of restrictions, and in particular the return to College from 8th March. Following on from this announcement, a number of updated guidance documents were published for colleges and information and clarification on guidance continues to be published each day. To support the new requirements for student and staff testing prior to return to College, we are in the process of planning a secure, phased and structured return - details of this will be shared with you as soon as they are finalised.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you back after another period of disruption, and there is no doubt that there are enormous benefits with a return to face-to-face learning. Within the revised guidance there are a few changes which however a number of key additional measures are now required within colleges in order to minimise transmission.

Asymptomatic Testing

The government have introduced Lateral Flow testing for staff and students – you will be required to participate in this testing before you return on site. Initially, we will be required to oversee the first three Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests which you will administer ('self-swab'), each of these tests must be conducted between three and five days apart onsite, at College. Following this initial period of testing, you will be provided with home test kits and will be required to administer two tests per week, we are suggesting that you test each Sunday and Wednesday in line with the staff testing programme. We will provide you with guidance and instructions during the onsite testing programme where we will also issue you with home testing kits.

Positive LFD Test Result

If you identify as having a positive LFD test, you will be required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days as will those members of our community who have also been identified as 'close-contacts'. Members of the your household who test positive will also be required to self-isolate in line with current [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#). You will also be required to take a PCR test, available from your usual local Covid-19 testing facilities.

Face Coverings

A further key change outlined in the revised guidance is the expansion of the use of face coverings within colleges. All staff and students must now wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms and other communal areas, where social distancing cannot be maintained. There are limited exceptions to this rule, such as where a covering would impact on the ability to take part in sports activities. This requirement is in place until at least Easter, when it will be reviewed by the Government. In addition, the new guidance specifies that face-visors should not be worn in place of masks, but that transparent masks that still cover the mouth and nose are acceptable. If you are exempt from wearing a face mask, we would still encourage a visor as an alternative - these will be supplied at the time of testing.

If you are, or someone in your household, is Clinically Extremely Vulnerable or shielding for medical reasons, please make contact directly with your tutor to discuss arrangements to that we ensure that all risks are identified and minimised.

As further details of our plans are confirmed, we will be in touch as soon as we are able so that you are fully aware of when you are expected to return onsite.

Best wishes

Julia



Julia Howe
Interim Principal
Weymouth College



01305 208919
07711017994



julia_howe@weymouth.ac.uk

