



Dear Parents and Carers

Return to College – Initial Arrangements

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 of all students 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 as soon as they are finalised.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our students back after another period of disruption to their education. We are confident that our remote learning provision this term has supported our students well, however there is no doubt that there are enormous benefits for our students with a return to face-to-face learning.

Within the revised guidance there are a number of key additional measures that are now required within colleges in order to minimise transmission.

Asymptomatic Testing

Initially, colleges will be required to oversee the first three Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests which students will administer themselves (‘self-swab’), and each of these three tests must be conducted between three and five days apart onsite, at College. Following this initial period of testing, students will be provided with home test kits and will be required to administer two tests per week, we are suggesting that students test each Sunday and Wednesday in line with the staff testing programme.

Positive LFD Test Result

Where a student is identified as having a positive LFD test, they 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 household for those who test positive will also be required to self-isolate in line with current [guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#).

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. Where students are exempt from wearing masks, we would still encourage visors as an alternative where possible and these will be supplied at the time of testing.

Once again, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and trust as we collectively navigate the rapidly changing educational landscape.

As further details of our plans are confirmed, we will be in touch as soon as we are able.

Best wishes

Julia



Julia Howe
Interim Principal
Weymouth College



01305 208919
07711017994



julia_howe@weymouth.ac.uk

