General Risk Assessment

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| **Date:** (1)  **13/1/21** | **Assessed by:** (2) **Name of Academic Supervisor** | **Checked by:** (3)  **Name of local Safety Advisor and head of School** | **Location(s):** (4)  Named building or personal offices, as appropriate | **Assessment ref no** (5) | **Review date:** (6)  **when Public Health England advice or internal guidance is**  **updated/ changed** |
| **TEMPLATE COVID-19 Risk assessment for 1:1 student meetings, including academic advisement Background**  SARS-CoV-2, the causal agent of COVID-19, has been designated as a hazard group 3 pathogen. Infection with SARS-CoV-2 occurs by inhalation of aerosolised virus or by contact with droplets and contaminated surfaces.  The new variant of coronavirus with a mutated spike protein is recognised as the emerging predominate strain in circulation during the winter of 2020 which has resulted in stricter government controls.  Although this variant is generally regarded as being more effective at binding to cellular receptors,  the control measures required to reduce the onward transmission (hand face space) remain the same but these should be more stringently applied and monitored through local COVID secure observations, reporting to the relevant management unit as described the locally managed specific risk assessment.    **Activity**  Academic Advising and 1-2-1 meetings are a core academic support activity affecting all taught students and the majority of teaching staff. The University’s  general policy on [Academic Advising.](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/policy-guidance/student-support-development/advising/)  For the purposes of this document ‘Academic Advising’ is used as a placeholder term for all one-to-one meetings between staff and taught students, including individual dissertation and project supervision for taught students. The assessment is also appropriate for pastoral care of students.  This template risk assessment will need to be completed to form a specific risk assessment which will need to be approved by the Head of School and also have the agreement of the relevant student.  Completion of the template risk assessment into a specific risk assessment must take in account relevant University guidance and revised accordingly as necessary.  **Scope**  This risk assessment evaluates risks relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and specifies risk control measure arrangements to minimise these risks so far as is reasonably practicable, to facilitate a safe learning environment for teachers and students.  The risk for any individual activity, with the mitigations in place and separating the activity risk from the health risk, is low (i.e., not increased above the general risk for COVID infection). Specific health risk is addressed through the [Guidance for staff on Vulnerability](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=50633) and the risk health matrix available to all returning  staff and with manager’s guidance on this matter. Individuals who are concerned about their risk should discuss the matter with their line manager and/or GP.  The new variant of coronavirus, with a mutated spike protein, is recognised as the emerging predominate strain in circulation during the winter of 2020 and has resulted in stricter government controls. Although this variant is generally regarded as being more effective at binding to cellular receptors, the control measures required to reduce the onward transmission (“hand, face, space”) remain the same but these should be more stringently applied and monitored through local COVID secure observation, reporting to the relevant management unit as described in the locally managed specific risk assessment.  **Exclusions**  Research student supervision meetings are not covered by this risk assessment. Please see the [supervision risk assessment](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=51115) | | | | | |

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| Face-to-face meetings where 2m social distance is not possible are not recommended. If these are deemed unavoidable, they require a separate risk assessment to be produced and reviewed by School Safety Advisors/Head of School and cross-referred to in this assessment.  If the meeting is for more than one student, the small group teaching risk assessment should be followed. | | | | | | |
| **Activity** | **Hazard** | **Who might be harmed and**  **how** | **Existing measures to control risk** | **Action** | **Risk rating** | **Result** |
| Academic advising meeting  One to one staff and student meeting | Infection with  SARS-CoV-2  & resulting COVID-19  disease | Staff & students attending for on- campus meetings and anyone who they subsequently come in to contact with could develop COVID-19.  Infected people display a wide range of symptoms from being asymptomatic to severe illness and potentially fatal disease | Staff and students follow University guidance (including the wearing of face coverings in all indoor spaces and the maintenance of 2m social distance at all times).  Staff or students with symptoms must not be on site.  Academic advising settings (please see guidance for the  University’s recommended approach)   * On campus in personal individual offices where social distancing can be maintained, spaces can be cleaned regularly with appropriate cleansing products and waiting areas can be safely managed | Students complete Health and Safety Induction as part of Welcome, Induction and Transition  Staff familiarise themselves with H&S guidance  Managers cascade H&S guidance including additional local requirements relating to the working environment.  If office spaces are being considered please contact Faculty Estates teams to ensure that cleaning is possible | **Low** | **A** |

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|  |  |  | * On campus in bookable rooms (via schools or Central Timetabling) | 2m distances clearly indicated and student advised in advance of meeting.  Face coverings are worn unless participants are exempt and both have agreed to proceed.  Participants use hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the room.  If necessary doors/windows will be left open to improve ventilation.  Academic Advisers clean touchpoints with wipes provided by Estates and Facilities between each meeting  Occupants keep rooms tidy for cleaning |  |  |

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|  |  |  |  | If using a School- owned room Schools to assess rooms for suitability and ensure its inclusion on the campus cleaning schedule  For centrally timetabled rooms social distancing has been marked. This needs to be adhered to for any meetings. |  |  |
| Accessing meetings on campus | Infection with  SARS-CoV-2  & resulting COVID-19  Disease | Staff and students accessing teaching buildings and academic office spaces and any one with whom they might subsequently come into contact | Staff and students follow University guidance (including the wearing of face coverings in all indoor spaces and the maintenance of 2m social distance at all times)  Students issued with appointment time and given clear instructions when to arrive and where  Students and staff use hand sanitiser when entering buildings and rooms, conform to building signage, use of face coverings and 2m social distancing | See actions above  Academic Advisers make clear arrangements in advance  Clear signage is installed in all buildings and building staff are available for advice | **Low** | **A** |

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| Student presents to meeting with possible symptoms | Infection | Ditto | Academic advisers clean in-room touchpoints with wipes between each meeting and dispose of waste into appropriate container  Academic advisers maintain electronic records of attendance, shared with programme administrators, in accordance with GDPR  Staff follow [guidance on reporting COVID-19 cases](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/DocuInfo.aspx?DocID=50638&gator_td=7U2F%2f9OUG5FDG8O8ii3OzpUXMXJLxZC01APM013eGicGYkGzM4lYMZtCGp0UoJyJimsKRU%2fwV%2fPJdsWLuuaVOxKw49wxbW%2bCjzEq0hTSnV8scFbWSUs19bgmCKRVwDZ2r0FYG9r2%2f9n8%2f06cAWuX4lGuRtTPBrJSt%2bs%2bv9GBDPd8S5mReWUqCUkXTnAPj5TF) | Wipes supplied by Estates and Facilities  Sharable records will be maintained by Schools and made available to support contact tracing  Advising must immediately cease and the Infectious Disease Protocol  applied. |  |  |

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| **Authorisation by Head of School**  **I confirm that face to face academic advising is necessary and that there are auditable procedures in place to confirm the COVID secure measures are in place**  **and that both the adviser and relevant students have agreed to proceed based on this assessment.** |
| **Name of Academic Advisor:**  **Signed:**  **Date**  **Name of Head of School: Signed:**  **Date:** |

# Process for dealing with reports of positive COVID-19 cases or self-isolation

**Overview**

* If any student or member of staff reports that they are self-isolating or have tested positive for COVID-19, [the Division of Campus Life](http://www.dse.manchester.ac.uk/our-directorate/campuslife/) must be notified through the completion of an online form, which is linked to in the guidance below.
* This will allow the Division of Campus Life, directed by Public Health England, to co- ordinate a response to the student or member of staff and any subsequent activity across our University, such as gathering data to support NHS Test and Trace with contact tracing.
* Data collected will be handled in line with GDPR and in accordance with our COVID- 19 privacy policy.
* Any communications related to reports of self-isolation or positive COVID-19 cases **must not be issued** without first consulting [Kim Graakjaer](mailto:Kim.Graakjaer@manchester.ac.uk), Head of Student Communications (in relation to student cases) or [Jamie Brown](mailto:jamie.brown@manchester.ac.uk), Head of Communications (in relation to staff cases).

# Process for student cases

* [Summary of process for reporting student cases](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=51179)

Students have now been sent [detailed COVID-19 safety guidance](https://livemanchesterac-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gareth_r_hughes_manchester_ac_uk/Documents/manchester.ac.uk/covidstudentsafety). This directs them to contact their School or PGR [Student Support team](http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/uni-services-az/school-support/) if they have started to self-isolate or have tested positive for COVID-19.

School/PGR Student Support should ensure the student is aware of our [COVID-19 guidance](file://localhost/C:/Users/jasonhall/Documents/manchester.ac.uk/covidstudentsafety) and reassure them that they are not in trouble. They should gather the following details from the student as a matter of priority:

* + Name of student
  + Student’s University ID number
  + Date of positive test (if applicable)
  + Date of first symptoms (if known)
  + Which University department the referral is being made from
  + Confirmation that the student has been referred to [COVID-19 guidance](https://livemanchesterac-my.sharepoint.com/personal/gareth_r_hughes_manchester_ac_uk/Documents/manchester.ac.uk/covidstudentsafety)
  + Whether the student has been contacted by NHS Test and Trace

School/PGR Student Support staff should then enter these details into [the COVID-19 referral](https://survey.manchester.ac.uk/pssweb/index.php/878934/lang-en) [form](https://survey.manchester.ac.uk/pssweb/index.php/878934/lang-en) and email [Sarah Littlejohn](mailto:sarah.h.littlejohn@manchester.ac.uk), Head of Campus Life, and [Spencer Davies](mailto:spencer.davies@manchester.ac.uk), Head of Advice and Response, with the subject line ‘COVID-19 report submitted by [name] on [date]’.

In addition, students who live in Greater Manchester who are self-isolating and need help with the delivery of food or medication, or other support, can call 0800 234 6123.

Following receipt of [the COVID-19 referral form](https://survey.manchester.ac.uk/pssweb/index.php/878934/lang-en), the Division of Campus Life, directed by Public Health England, will co-ordinate a response to the student and subsequent activity across our University, such as gathering data to support NHS Test and Trace with contact tracing.

# Process for staff cases

* [Summary of process for reporting staff cases](http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=51179)

Staff have been directed to inform their line manager if they have tested positive or are self- isolating.

The line manager should be supportive to the member of staff and ensure that they have read the [COVID-19 staff support resources](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/coronavirus/).

Line managers should gather the following details from the member of staff as a matter of priority:

* Name of staff member
* Department
* Staff member’s email address
* Date of positive test (if applicable)
* Date of first symptoms (if known)
* Confirmation that the staff member has been referred to instructions on self- isolating and getting tested
* Whether the staff member has been contacted by NHS Test and Trace

Line managers should then enter these details into [the online referral form](https://survey.manchester.ac.uk/pssweb/index.php/878934/lang-en) and email [Sarah](mailto:sarah.h.littlejohn@manchester.ac.uk) [Littlejohn](mailto:sarah.h.littlejohn@manchester.ac.uk), Head of Campus Life, and [Spencer Davies](mailto:spencer.davies@manchester.ac.uk), Head of Advice and Response, with the subject line ‘COVID-19 report submitted by [name] on [date]’. No message is necessary.

Following receipt of [the COVID-19 referral form](https://survey.manchester.ac.uk/pssweb/index.php/878934/lang-en),. the Division of Campus Life, directed by Public Health England, will co-ordinate a response to the member of staff and subsequent activity across our University, such as gathering data to support NHS Test and Trace with contact tracing.

# Useful resources

* [COVID-19 safety guidance for students](file://localhost/C:/Users/jasonhall/Documents/manchester.ac.uk/covidstudentsafety)
* [COVID-19 staff support resources](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/coronavirus/)

# Notes to accompany General Risk Assessment Form

This form is the one recommended by Safety Services, and used on the University’s risk assessment training courses. It is strongly suggested that you use it for all new assessments, and when existing assessments are being substantially revised. However, its use is not compulsory. Providing the assessor addresses the same issues, alternative layouts may be used.

1. **Date**: Insert date that assessment form is completed. The assessment must be valid on that day, and subsequent days, unless circumstances change and amendments are necessary.
2. **Assessed by**: Insert the name and signature of the assessor. For assessments other than very simple ones, the assessor should have attended the University course on risk assessments (THS 15 Principles of Risk Assessment)
3. **Checked / Validated\* by**: delete one.

**Checked by** : Insert the name and signature of someone in a position to check that the assessment has been carried out by a competent person who can identify hazards and assess risk, and that the control measures are reasonable and in place. The checker will normally be a line manager, supervisor, principal investigator, etc. Checking will be appropriate for most risk assessments.

**Validated by** : Use this for higher risk scenarios, eg where complex calculations have to be validated by another “independent” person who is competent to do so, or where the control measure is a strict permit-to-work procedure requiring thorough

preparation of a workplace. The validator should also have attended the University’s risk assessment course or equivalent, and will probably be a chartered engineer or professional with expertise in the task being considered. Examples of where validation is required include designs for pressure vessels, load-bearing equipment, lifting equipment carrying personnel or items over populated areas, and similar situations.

1. **Location**: insert details of the exact location, ie building, floor, room or laboratory etc. If off-campus, provide information about expected location(s) or attach itinerary.
2. **Assessment ref no**: use this to insert any local tracking references used by the school or administrative directorate.
3. **Review date**: insert details of when the assessment will be reviewed as a matter of routine. This might be in 1 year’s time, at the end of a short programme of work, or longer period if risks are known to be stable. Note that any assessment must be reviewed if there are any significant changes – to the work activity, the vicinity, the people exposed to the risk, etc
4. **Task / premises**: insert a brief summary of the task, eg typical office activities such as filing, DSE work, lifting and moving small objects, use of misc. electrical equipment. Or, research project [title] involving the use of typical laboratory hardware, including fume cupboards, hot plates, ovens, analysis equipment, flammable solvents, etc.
5. **Activity**: use the column to describe each separate activity covered by the assessment. The number of rows is unlimited, although how many are used for one assessment will depend on how the task / premises is sub-divided. For laboratory work, activities in one particular lab or for one particular project might include: use of gas cylinders, use of fume cupboard, use of computer or other electrical equipment, use of lab ovens, hot plates or heaters, use of substances hazardous to health, etc
6. **Hazard**: for each activity, list the hazards. Remember to look at hazards that are not immediately obvious. For example, use of a lathe will require identification of the machine hazards, but also identification of hazards associated with the use of cutting oils (dermatitis), poor lighting, slipping on oil leaks, repetitive actions, etc. The same activity might well have several hazards associated with it. Assessment of simple chemical risks (eg use of cleaning chemicals in accordance with the instructions on the bottle) may be recorded here. More complex COSHH assessments eg for laboratory processes, should be recorded on the specific COSHH forms.
7. **Who might be harmed and how**: insert everyone who might be affected by the activity and specify groups particularly at risk. Remember those who are not immediately involved in the work, including cleaners, young persons on work experience, maintenance contractors, Estates personnel carrying out routine maintenance and other work. Remember also that the risks for different groups will vary. Eg someone who needs to repair a laser may need to expose the beam path more than users of the laser would do. Vulnerable groups could include children on organised visits, someone who is pregnant, or employees and students with known disabilities or health conditions (this is not a definitive list).

For each group, describe how harm might come about, eg an obstruction or wet patch on an exit route is a hazard that might cause a trip and fall; use of electrical equipment might give rise to a risk of electric shock; use of an ultraviolet light source could burn eyes or skin.

1. **Existing measures to control the risk**: list all measures that already mitigate the risk. Many of these will have been implemented for other reasons, but should nevertheless be recognised as means of controlling risk. For example, restricting access to laboratories or machine rooms for security reasons also controls the risk of unauthorised and unskilled access to dangerous equipment. A standard operating procedure or local rules (eg for work with ionising radiation, lasers or biological hazards) will often address risks. Some specific hazards may require detailed assessments in accordance with specific legislation (eg COSHH, DSEAR, manual

handling, DSE work). Where this is the case, and a detailed assessment has already been done in another format, the master risk assessment can simply cross-reference to other documentation. For example, the activity might be use of a carcinogen, the hazard might be exposure to hazardous substances, the existing control measures might all be listed in a COSHH assessment. Controls might also include use of qualified and/or experienced staff who are competent to carry out certain tasks; an action plan might include training requirements for other people who will be carrying out those tasks.

1. **Risk Rating**: the simplest form of risk assessment is to rate the remaining risk as high, medium or low, depending on how likely the activity is to cause harm and how serious that harm might be.

The risk is **LOW** - if it is most unlikely that harm would arise under the controlled conditions listed, and even if exposure occurred, the injury would be relatively slight.

The risk is **MEDIUM** - if it is more likely that harm might actually occur and the outcome could be more serious (eg some time off work, or a minor physical injury.

The risk is **HIGH** - if injury is likely to arise (eg there have been previous incidents, the situation “looks like an accident waiting to happen”) and that injury might be serious (broken bones, trip to the hospital, loss of consciousness), or even a fatality.

Schools or administrative directorates may choose to use other rating systems. Typical amongst these are matrices (of 3x3, 4x4, 5x5 or even more complex) which require the assessor to select a numerical rating for both “likelihood that harm will arise” and

“severity of that harm”. These may give a spurious sense of accuracy and reliability – none are based on quantitative methods. There are methods of estimating risk quantitatively, and these may be appropriate for complex design of load bearing structures and the like. Advice on methods of risk assessment is available from Safety Services. Whatever system of assessment is adopted, it is **essential** that the assessor has received suitable training and is familiar with the meaning of the terms (or numbers) used.

1. **Result**: this stage of assessment is often overlooked, but is probably the most important. Assigning a number or rating to a risk does not mean that the risk is necessarily adequately controlled. The options for this column are:

**T = trivial risk**. Use for very low risk activities to show that you have correctly identified a hazard, but that in the particular circumstances, the risk is insignificant.

**A = adequately controlled, no further action necessary.** If your control measures lead you to conclude that the risk is low, and that all legislative requirements have been met (and University policies complied with), then insert A in this column.

**N = not adequately controlled, actions required**. Sometimes, particularly when setting up new procedures or adapting existing processes, the risk assessment might identify that the risk is high or medium when it is capable of being reduced by methods that are reasonably practicable. In these cases, an action plan is required. The plan should list the actions necessary, who they are to be carried out by, a date for completing the actions, and a signature box for the assessor to sign off that the action(s) has been satisfactorily completed. Some action plans will be complex documents; others may be one or two actions that can be completed with a short timescale.

**U = unable to decide. Further information required.** Use this designation if the assessor is unable to complete any of the boxes, for any reason. Sometimes, additional information can be obtained readily (eg from equipment or chemicals suppliers, specialist University advisors) but sometimes detailed and prolonged enquiries might be required. Eg is someone is moving a research programme from a research establishment overseas where health and safety legislation is very different from that in the UK.

**For T and A results**, the assessment is complete.

**For N or U results**, more work is required before the assessment can be signed off.

1. **Action Plan**. Include details of any actions necessary in order to meet the

requirements of the information in Section 11 ‘Existing measures to control the risk’. Identify someone who will be responsible for ensuring the action is taken and the date by which this should be completed. Put the date when the action has been completed in the final column.