

University of Manchester COVID Secure Ecosystem

Guidance on Risk Assessment for COVID-19

This guidance is based on the DfE's Higher Education COVID-19 Operational [Guidance](#) (Updated: 27 September 2021) in line with the Step 4 of the government's COVID-19 roadmap.

The COVID secure control measures should be sensible and proportionate and follow the health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level in a manner commensurate with the risk level for on-campus activities.

To reflect the dynamic nature of the pandemic, risk assessments should be reviewed regularly and revised accordingly. The outcome of the reviews and any revisions should be discussed at the local safety committee and any management decision appropriately documented, and records retained.

The emphasis is on local decision making according to local conditions and risks. So whilst there may be no universal mandatory requirement for e.g., face coverings indoors, in certain situations or in certain areas (e.g., confined spaces), they may be required because of a greater risk of transmission.

Key mitigations for reducing COVID-19 infection on the campus:

Individuals (staff and visitors)

1. **Responsible conduct**
Staff and students should follow all relevant guidance and act responsibly on the campus to minimise the risks.
2. **Symptomatic individuals**
Individuals with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) should isolate as per [NHS guidance](#).
3. **Contacts**
Contacts of individuals with confirmed COVID-19 infection [are required](#) to isolate for 10 days from the day of contact.
4. **Regular testing**
Staff and students should be advised and encouraged to undertake twice weekly testing and isolate if their test is positive. Individuals who test positive should report using the [established reporting procedure and support](#) Test & Trace efforts by University and/or NHS.
5. **Vaccination**
Staff and students should be encouraged to take up vaccination/boosters.
6. **CEV groups/individuals unable to have vaccinations**
These individuals remain at a higher risk and currently, provision should be made to either work from home or if necessary safely on the campus. Factors such as the mode of travel to work should also be considered in any risk assessment.

Place

1. **Social Distancing**
The legal requirement for social distancing will no longer be in place, however, consideration should be given to continue with social distancing measures in areas of the campus where it is possible to do so without restricting activity or where risk assessment necessitates this.

2. Face Coverings

Face covering are strongly encouraged when circulating indoors, especially in very busy areas (after lectures where they may be considerable crowding in corridors), but may be a mandatory requirement in some areas e.g. Faculty teaching rooms (unless exempt or teaching, where socially distanced), confined areas or at certain times subject to risk assessment. Face coverings are expected to be worn in Central Teaching Spaces unless medically exempt or delivering teaching, where socially distanced. Clear face coverings are available for teaching staff from Faculty who will advise on local arrangements to obtain them. Face covering signs/information are displayed in these areas. Teaching staff should remind students at the start of lectures to wear face coverings where these signs are displayed and extra face coverings are provided at main building entrances and in Central Teaching Spaces.

3. Ventilation

E&F controlled mechanical ventilation will continue to be set to optimise fresh air intake. For areas that are not mechanically ventilated, natural ventilation by opening external windows and appropriate doors can assist in creating a throughput of air. In areas where improvements have been identified, other mitigation measures such as mobile HEPA filtration units maybe utilised. Where necessary, E&F ventilation engineers' advice via local School Safety Advisors should be sought to inform any specific risk assessment not covered by this generic assessment.

4. Sanitation

Individuals will continue to be advised to clean/wash their hands thoroughly and frequently, and encourage good respiratory hygiene practice by promoting 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.

5. Cleaning

E&F will continue with regular cleaning of communal areas particularly frequently touched surface with long-acting antiviral agent. Cleaning of other areas and equipment under local management control will be undertaken in accordance with any defined schedule and risk assessments. The [covid cleaning poster](#) should be printed and displayed by local managers.

Following COVID outbreaks, the outbreak plan will include assessment of any cleaning needs.

Outbreak Management

The University's outbreak management plan will be kept updated on the [campus safety hub](#).