

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well.

I'm hearing some really uplifting reports of how much students are enjoying their learning. One of my colleagues was telling me in an online lecture to 150 students, 110 students asked questions! That level of interaction shows how well students are engaging in their learning, and shows the benefits of our blended offer – it would be very difficult to manage that level of engagement in a conventional face-to-face lecture. I'm also hearing some good reports of in-person on campus activity.

If you have any comments, questions or feedback about your educational experience, do contact your School or Institute directly.

Your experience on campus

For our new students, I know this isn't the start to your life at Queen Mary that you had hoped for, and for continuing students, campus does feel very different to normal. There already is a range of social activity on offer run by the University and our Students' Union. To help continue to develop that sense of our Queen Mary community, we are looking to see what more we can do. We will be putting on some more Covid-secure social activities to supplement those already available, for those of you who live on or are able to travel to our campuses. We are planning some more film nights, some quizzes, bingo and more. We will be sending more information shortly.

Covid-19 cases

We have received some questions from students and staff about how many Covid-19 cases there are amongst our communities, and will now be [publishing numbers daily](#) so you can see this information. At the moment, we have 55 active cases. Mercifully, everyone who has reported a positive test result is only experiencing mild symptoms.

If you or someone you know develops Covid-19 symptoms, there is guidance on what to do [on our website](#).

Students having to self-isolate

It is incredibly important that anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 [self-isolates and gets a test as soon as possible](#). Students who have a positive test result also must self-isolate with their households. If you self-isolate, you will stop the spread of the disease and you will protect each other and, in turn, your wider family and friends.

If your household on our campuses has to self-isolate please be reassured that we will provide full support to you and your flatmates, including helping you with shopping, welfare support and extra cleaning, all managed by our housing and residential services team. We have already successfully supported hundreds of our international students through self-isolation on their arrival into the UK, and will provide a similar high level of support to any student having to self-isolate now. If you have any questions or concerns just [contact the Housing Services team](#).

Keeping safe

If we all follow our [Covid Code](#), and ensure that we all behave appropriately, we can stop the transmission of this virus, and keep ourselves, and our loved ones, safe. It is really important not to socialise in groups larger than six on and off our campuses, to maintain social distancing and follow the rest of the [important regulations and guidelines](#).

Concerns or enquiries

We are living through incredibly difficult times. We are here to support you: if you have any concerns or questions, do speak to your School or Institute, the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or the [Housing Services team](#) if you are in residences. We have also now set up a [central Covid-19 enquiries line and email](#) which you are welcome to use.

Please do look after yourselves and stay safe. I will write again next week.

Best wishes,

Colin

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