

Email to students - Coronavirus: update from the Principal

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you well, and you are enjoying your time at Queen Mary. If you have any questions or concerns, please remember your Advisor is your first port of call.

New government guidance for universities: no change to your educational experience

Yesterday, the Government announced some [new measures to slow the spread of the new Covid-19 variant](#). These measures are precautionary: scientists are still studying the new variant and its impact. Universities have now been issued with further guidance under these new measures.

I'm writing to reassure you that under the new government guidance, face-to-face teaching and research can continue. This means there will be no impact on your educational experience at Queen Mary, and you should continue to come to our campuses for your face-to-face educational activities, to study and to engage in research as needed for your course. All our student support services, our libraries, study spaces, University-run cafes etc and our residences will remain fully open as they are now.

Face covering policy

There is no further change needed to our face covering policy. Please do wear a face covering when walking around in our buildings in corridors, communal areas, stairwells and in lifts. You will also need a face covering if using public transport and in shops, and in some other public areas. [Visit the gov.uk website for further information](#).

Social activities

Bars and restaurants can remain open under the new guidance, and sporting activities can also continue. We are waiting for further guidance on running large events. Please keep an eye on our [calendar of activities](#) for the latest updates.

Travel guidance

There is no extra guidance beyond the [restrictions currently in place](#).

Lateral flow testing

Everyone should aim to take a lateral flow test at least twice a week. Home test kits are available from our campuses. The new guidance advises that students travelling at the Christmas break should take a test before they go, and before they return. Please remember to register the result of the test with the NHS, even if it's negative.

I realise we are once again living in uncertain times. Please be reassured that the number of cases of [Covid-19 among our communities](#) and in the local area remains very low. The single most important thing we can all do to keep safe is get vaccinated. If you have not yet been vaccinated please go and get a jab! We are hosting a vaccination centre on our Mile End campus, which can be used by students, staff and the general public. You can either [book via the NHS](#) or simply attend as a drop-in. If you have had one jab, please do make sure you get your second, and also book for your booster jab as soon as you are eligible.

If you have any questions, please contact your Advisor, the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or of course you can contact me at the address below.

I will write to you again when I have a further update.
Best wishes,

Colin

Professor Colin Bailey, CBE, FEng, BEng, PhD, CEng, FICE, FStructE, MIFireE
President and Principal | Queen Mary University of London | Mile End Road | London | E1 4NS

