

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. I am writing to you now to explain what the Government's announcements over the weekend currently mean for you at Queen Mary.

Implications of second lockdown for Queen Mary

I'm sure you will have seen the announcement of a second national lockdown, starting this Thursday 5 November. Facing another lockdown is miserable for all of us, and particularly for those of you who are living away from home, are worried about family and friends, or are coping with fears of isolation yourselves. Do look after yourselves and each other, and remember [we are there to support you](#). Do have a look at our wellbeing services, and reach out for help from there, your School/Institute or our residences team if you need it.

As a university, the announcement of a second lockdown makes no difference to our current way of operating. The government has been clear that universities should stay open, and that research and educational activities should continue. Therefore we will continue to provide a blended education for you, including online and in-person activities, and our teaching facilities, study spaces, staff offices and research facilities will remain open on our campuses. If you need to access student support, in-person appointments will also continue to be available.

Catering facilities

We are aiming to keep our catering outlets on our campuses fully open, recognising that students and staff use these to continue discussions about their research and education while eating and they are used as study spaces. We will let you know if we need to change our approach following any updates to government guidance. Please do maintain social distancing when you are using these facilities.

Social activities

We will continue to monitor guidance from the Government, but it is likely that some of our social and leisure activities will have to change, in line with the [new guidance](#). It is likely that Qmotion will have to temporarily close. We may have to postpone some of our planned social activities, and are now looking to see what replacement social activities we can offer you under the new restrictions. We will offer as much as we can for you. Remember you still can meet one person who is not from your household outside.

I realise these new restrictions are a big blow. I very much hope they will be short-lived. Do remember we are there to support you: do ask for help if you need it.

Travelling home

I should just draw your attention to [the Government's guidelines](#) about not travelling from your term-time address to your permanent home during termtime. This does not of course affect you if you are a commuter student. The Government has committed that all students who want to will be able to travel home at the end of term.

Covid-19 cases and keeping safe

Our number of Covid-19 cases continues to be small. Nationally though numbers are rising and it is more important than ever that we all stay safe, on and off our campuses. Please continue to follow our [Covid Code](#) and the [latest government guidelines](#).

These are very difficult times and if you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of your university life, please remember we are here to help. You can contact the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or the [Housing Services team](#) if you are in residences, or the [central Covid-19 enquiries line and email](#). Please do look after yourselves and stay safe. I will write again next week.

Best wishes,

Colin

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