

Email to students - Coronavirus: update from the Principal

Dear student,

To our new students, welcome to Queen Mary! I hope you are enjoying Welcome Week, and taking advantage of all the activities provided for you. There is a wide variety of activities on offer – [have a look at the programme](#), and if you have any questions go to the information point in Library Square on the Mile End campus. If you are overseas and haven't been able to join us in person yet, please see the [activities available online](#).

For our returning students, we are very much looking forward to seeing you next week for the start of term. Our campuses are looking fantastic, our staff are very much looking forward to welcoming you back. You will all have your timetables by now, and please also have a look at the [great programme of social activity](#) for you to get involved with. If you are overseas and can't join us at the beginning of term don't worry, you can start your studies online* but it is important that you join us as soon as you can. If you have any questions, do contact the [Student Enquiry Centre](#).

Covid safety on our campuses

I'm pleased to tell you that cases of Covid-19 among our communities, and in the local area, remain very low: at time of writing, we have 7 active cases of Covid-19 among staff, and 5 among students. The single most important thing we can all do to ensure Covid safety is to be fully vaccinated. Being vaccinated means you will not need to self-isolate if you are defined as a close contact of someone who has Covid, and also means you are far less likely, if you get infected, to become very unwell. If you are vaccinated you are also significantly less likely to spread the virus, and so are keeping others safe as well. We are hosting a [vaccination centre](#) on our Mile End campus, which is open 11.00-18.00 Monday-Saturday inclusive. The centre can be used by students, staff and the general public, and you can either [book via the NHS](#) or attend as a drop-in. Overseas students can also have the vaccine even if they have received a different vaccine overseas. If you have not been vaccinated, [visit the NHS website](#) as soon as possible for information on how to book an appointment, and [visit the Tower Hamlets council website](#) for more information about drop-in centres and vaccination events in Tower Hamlets. And if you have had one jab, please do make sure you get your second.

As well as being vaccinated, it is also important to take lateral flow tests regularly each week, either in our [test centres](#) or by using a home test kit. Please remember to register the result of the tests.

In the last couple of weeks we hosted the national Health and Safety Executive (HSE), to assess the measures we have in place. We received a ringing positive endorsement from the HSE about our safety measures. I hope this reassures you: we do all need to keep vigilant and follow our [Covid Code](#), but we have everything we can in place to keep you safe.

I hope if you are already with us you are having a great time. If you haven't yet come back, we very much look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Best wishes,

Colin

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*For some programmes in our Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry you do need to arrive in person by specific dates. Please refer to the communications that come direct from your Institute.