

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. You will have seen the news that London is moving into the national Covid-19 tier 2: High Alert. I wanted to explain briefly what that means for you.

### **Covid-19 and London's move to tier 2; High Alert**

Earlier today it was announced that London will move from the 'Medium Alert' to 'High Alert' national Covid-19 tier on Saturday. This move does not affect the way in which we operate as a university or deliver our education and research. According to government guidance, universities and schools stay open in all three national tiers, and students and staff are allowed to travel to and from universities and other educational establishments. We will continue to offer the same level of in-person teaching, alongside the online provision, and our campus facilities and research laboratories will remain open and operating as they are now. If you are able to come onto our campuses then do please continue to do so.

### **Impact on social activities**

The move to national tier 2: High Alert does mean that people cannot socialise with others in different households indoors. I realise this is a blow, particularly if you are new to Queen Mary. There is a [range of Covid-safe social activity](#) for you to enjoy, and in addition I have read some great feedback from students attending in-person study groups, which shows that you are not only appreciating the academic opportunities these groups offer, but also the chance to meet other people on your course face-to-face.

### **Blended learning, study space and campus facilities**

Staff in our Schools and Institutes are working really hard with your Student School/Institute and course representatives to put on in-person education activities that are attractive to students, and are continuing to adapt the educational offer according to student feedback. The comments I'm receiving about both the online and in-person education continues to be extremely good. If you would like to see some changes made, do talk to directly your School/Institute or course representative.

We are seeing good use of study space across our campuses and are looking to see if we can open up more Covid-safe space for you to use. I realise it can be frustrating to have to book study space on our campuses, but unfortunately we do have to maintain this process for your safety. We are, however, monitoring the booking system to see if we can make any improvements, as well as looking to increase our available study space further.

### **Covid-19 cases at Queen Mary**

Thankfully, our number of Covid-19 cases [remains relatively low](#). Everyone who has a positive test result is only suffering mild symptoms. Remember if you develop Covid-19 symptoms, you must self-isolate and get a test. There is full guidance on what to do [on our website](#). Please do ensure that you follow all guidance.

### **Keeping safe**

London has moved from Medium Alert tier 1 to High Alert tier 2 partly as a result of the increasing numbers of cases in areas of the city. It is incredibly important everyone follows our [Covid Code](#) and government regulations to limit the spread of the virus, and keep everyone safe.

### **Concerns or enquiries**

If you have any concerns or questions, do speak to your School or Institute, the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or the [Residential 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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