

Update to arrangements from Thursday 24th February 2022

Dear All,

I am writing to you following the government announcements this week about the move to a “Living with COVID-19 Plan”. Having reviewed the latest guidance provided by the Department for Education, we are making changes to our approach as a result, with effect from Thursday February 24th.

The government continuing advice is that you should take these steps to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19:

- [Get vaccinated](#)
- Let fresh air in if meeting indoors, or meet outside
- Consider wearing a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces
- [Get tested](#) if you have COVID-19 symptoms, and stay at home if positive

If you have symptoms commonly associated with Covid-19

You must not come on site at all and get a PCR test as soon as possible. If you test positive, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days. After the 5 full days you should continue to stay at home until you have got two 2 negative lateral flow test results on consecutive days.

You must let the College know that you have symptoms and the result of your test by emailing covid@wqe.ac.uk

Lateral Flow Testing:

The government has now removed the guidance for students and staff in colleges like ours to routinely take regular lateral flow tests when they don't have symptoms of COVID-19. This brings education into line with wider society. You should make sure that you have a box of lateral flow testing kits at home to use at the end of any COVID-19 self-isolation period. The kits are available to pick up from the College reception areas. The NHS advise that if you are under 18 years old, the tests should be done with adult supervision. At present staff and students, along with others in society, are also able to access test kits from local pharmacies or [online](#).

The College will also retain a stock of lateral flow tests so that we can respond to any local public health advice about resuming regular testing, in particular in relation to outbreaks.

Face Coverings:

The national guidance for further education providers no longer advises the routine use of face coverings in settings like ours.

These may still be necessary where public health officials communicate a local need to us at some future point and there may also be certain exceptional situations where teachers consider it necessary to ask for face coverings to be worn. We therefore ask students to follow any staff requests respectfully on such occasions.

Face coverings can continue to be worn on site if you wish to, particularly in crowded communal areas. We continue to ask that everyone is respectful and considerate of each other's personal choices and respectfully follows any staff direction from time to time as necessary.

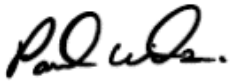
You may still be asked to wear a face covering on public transport and so we recommend that you continue to remain prepared for this in relation to your own travel to and from college.

COVID-19 Vaccinations: One of the main remaining protections against COVID-19 is for as many people as possible to be fully vaccinated; the College strongly encourages all students to do this. You can use [this link](#) for the latest information on vaccinations.

I want to thank you for continuing to play your own part in helping to keep the entire local and WQE College community safe by your own actions. We have been extremely proud of how our students have responded during the various stages of the pandemic, with a strong sense of community, high levels of personal responsibility and consideration for others being routinely shown.

As always, your health and wellbeing remain our top priority and we are here to support and advise.

With thanks and best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Wilson'.

Paul Wilson
Principal