



## Important update: Ongoing mitigation measures in place on campus

Dear Student

Northern Ireland's Health Minister has announced the easing of the remaining COVID-19 restrictions. This means that rules that were legally binding (for example, the wearing of face coverings in enclosed public spaces) are now guidance rather than law. As restrictions continue to relax, we must all play our part and take sensible precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19. I am writing to update you on some key things you should be aware of as our University community adjusts to these changes.

### Social distancing, room capacities and in-person teaching

With the easing of restrictions, you will notice restrictions on room capacities easing and requirements for one-way systems no longer necessary in many University facilities.

Your feedback has highlighted the benefits of digital learning and retaining some online provision where appropriate, alongside in person teaching. Your School will continue to keep you informed of local teaching arrangements and will advise if there any changes to current teaching delivery for the remainder of Semester 2.

### Face coverings

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to continue to wear a face covering while moving through buildings and within teaching, learning and study environments, as well as when moving around shared occupancy and open plan office spaces. Full details, including exceptional circumstances, can be found on our [COVID-19 FAQs page](#).

### Get boosted

If you haven't yet had your booster jab, please make this a priority. **Recent data shows that having three vaccine jabs provides better protection against the Omicron variant.**

[Click here to find out where you can get your booster, or a first or second jab.](#)

The University is working with the Belfast Trust to deliver on-campus vaccination clinics, which are open to all, for first, second or booster jabs. View the [On-campus walk-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics schedule](#).

### Asymptomatic testing

All students and staff should continue to undertake regular asymptomatic testing at least twice a week or as often as possible for as long as you are on campus.

LFD home test kits are available from [collection points across campus](#).

### **Stay home if you're ill**

There have not been any changes to the rules on self-isolation and Northern Ireland's testing and contact tracing system also remains in place.

You should continue to follow the [self-isolation guidance available on the NI Direct website](#).

Please stay at home if you have tested positive or you have symptoms of any flu/cold/COVID-19 illness, and let your School know that you're staying home.

### **Clinically extremely vulnerable students**

Vaccination and immunisation may well have significantly reduced risks for some members of our community, but we know that individuals may wish to carry on taking additional precautions, either for themselves or if they live with others who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

For anyone concerned who has yet to get in touch, please contact your School directly to discuss teaching and learning arrangements.

### **Support and information**

As ever, the University's [COVID-19 FAQs website](#) remains the best place to find University-wide information about COVID-19. Please contact your School if you have any specific questions about your own circumstances.

While the easing of restrictions is a marker of positive progress in our journey through the pandemic, we recognise that this transition may also be an anxious time. We have a [range of support services available](#), and urge anyone who is experiencing anxiety or any other impacts to contact the relevant service so we can support you.

Guidance on [steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19](#) is also available on the NI Direct website.

As we move towards greater normality and look forward to the better days ahead, I am confident that the community spirit our students and staff have demonstrated throughout the past two years will remain and that all members of our community will continue to exercise appropriate caution and consideration for others.

Best wishes

Professor David Jones  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students