

In response to the latest COVID Guidance for schools and colleges from the Department of Education, we will introduce some temporary COVID-19 measures for all our students, staff and visitors. The changes are being implemented to help prevent the spread of the Omicron variant and to ensure that we continue to keep everyone safe and to reduce the risk of transmission.

We are asking all students and staff to follow the key measures, outlined below-

- From today (November 29th) students, staff and visitors should wear face coverings in communal spaces, including corridors, social areas and cafes, unless they are exempt. This does not include classrooms at the present time.
- Everyone using college and public transport should wear face coverings, unless you are medically exempt.
- All rooms must have regular, effective ventilation, as this is now known to be the best way to minimise transmission. As the weather is very cold, everyone is advised to wear warm clothing when they come to College.

The Department for Education have also announced that on returning back to campus in the New Year all staff and students are required to undertake a lateral-flow test, which must show negative before coming on to campus. All staff and students should also undertake a second test within 5 days and then to continue with twice weekly testing after that. The lateral flow kits are available either via your Progress Coach or you can collect the lateral flow kits at Leek reception, Buxton Student Centre or at the testing centre at Kedleston Road.

Please continue to follow the latest government guidance and COVID reporting processes which can be found on our designated COVID page.

Please ensure you continue to follow the basic rules for hygiene:

- Washing and or sanitising your hands regularly
- Cleaning/disinfecting your surroundings before and after use
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze

And if you have any of the main symptoms of Covid-19 (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), you must self-isolate and get a PCR test immediately.

All contacts of suspected Omicron cases must self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of their vaccination status. They will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

If you have any worries or concerns about the new latest guidance, then please speak to your tutor or progress coach.