

## COVID-19 – 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER – PRE-ARRIVAL UPDATE FOR STUDENTS

We are very much looking forward to having welcoming you back to College and to the start of term next whether you will be accessing College life remotely or you will be joining us here at Easneye. We want everyone to have the best experience of College this year whether in person or as a remote learner and we are working hard to enable this. However, because of the restrictions placed upon us by Covid-19 we are having to make some changes to College events so that we can adhere to government guidance. The control measures outlined in this document (and in previous ones) are in line with government guidance. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses> We are the first to consider that the restrictions will affect the usual feel of the College, but we need to do all that we can practically to minimise the risk of a Covid-19 outbreak at College.

All of the measures outlined in last week's update still apply but further to that, this update contains the information that you need to know for your arrival and for the start of term and some reminders. You should already have received information from your course administrator regarding the Orientation programme and the welcome events.

As we are continuing to see in the UK and around the world, situations and restrictions can change very quickly, but as of today's date (Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> September), this is what you need to know:

### **What do I need to do before arriving at College?**

As outlined in the August update, if you are coming to College and you are not already in quarantine (quarantine is only required for those coming to the UK from certain countries – for the current list of countries see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>.), you should now be trying as much as possible to reduce your social interaction with people who will not be part of the residential community. This means staying at home as much as possible (apart from essential travel for food, medical reasons or daily exercise) and minimising contact with anyone outside your household.

This is so that we can reduce the risk of people arriving who may be carrying the Covid-19 virus because they have picked this up from someone else.

Should you experience ANY symptoms of Covid-19 (high temperature, new and persistent cough, breathing difficulties, loss of taste or smell) at any time between now and arriving at College, you **MUST** take a Covid-19 test and follow health advice. **You MUST NOT travel to College if you are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 or if you are awaiting the result of a Covid-19 test.** If you test positive for Covid-19 at any time from now until your arrival, please inform your course administrator straight away and your arrival will need to be delayed; you will still be able to access your course and other College events remotely until such time as you can arrive in person.

### **I am travelling from overseas. Do I need to undertake a 14-day quarantine period?**

Currently, anyone travelling from a non-exempt country (including for a stop over) **MUST** undertake a 14-day quarantine period on arrival in the UK. Please remain mindful of the status of your country, particularly if currently you would not be required to undertake quarantine as we have seen that the situation can change rapidly. Should a change in UK government policy mean that you will need to quarantine when you weren't expecting to, you can still travel to College (subject to the requirements above) but you will need to quarantine for 14 days on arrival. This would mean staying in your room for all lessons, activities and meals (other than for essential reasons and socially

distanced exercise). Should you find yourself in this position please email your course administrator without delay.

### **My home town is now subject to local lock down measures. Can I travel to College?**

You will need to follow local requirements for the lock down measures including self-isolation requirements as well as any that restrict travel. You will not be able to travel to College if local measures (in place at the time of your intended journey to College) do not allow travel outside your local area. If you are subject to a local lock down, please inform your course administrator. You will still be able to access your course remotely until such time as you can travel to College.

### **What do I need to do when I arrive at College?**

Please make sure that you are wearing a face mask when you arrive at College. On arrival please report to the welcome desk at the front of Easneye House so that your temperature can be checked. Once this is done, you will be directed as to what to do next and to your room. You will have a short time to get your things into your room and to change & shower before returning to the welcome event on the patio and in the garden behind Easneye House.

### **What will happen on Arrival Day (23<sup>rd</sup> September)?**

**Morning** - there will be orientation sessions for families and students living off site and for returning students. Information about these sessions has already been sent out. Students living off site (ie not at Easneye) are welcome to bring a packed lunch and to stay for the welcome event in the afternoon.

**Afternoon** – new students will arrive during the afternoon (see above), settle in their rooms and join the welcome event

**Evening** – dinner will be at 6.00 p.m. for all Full Board students and resident staff/volunteers only.

**Please note** - this is a change to usual practice, so if you are a returning student living off site or a self-catering family living on site and you have already booked in for this meal, please note that on this occasion it will not be possible for you to have dinner in College.

A welcome event will take place outside at 7.30 p.m. ALL students are invited to attend this event.

### **What are the arrangements for the service on the first Sunday morning?**

All students are invited to join us for the start of year College service at 10.30 a.m. followed by tutor group time and lunch. Students living locally off-site may attend with their spouse. Please confirm your attendance with your course administrator by Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September as we need to know numbers for ordering lunch. We are continuing to keep a close eye on the weather forecast as we are planning on having the service outside. We will make a decision earlier in the week as to whether we will need to move the service inside and will publish more information during orientation.

### **Maple Hall (Dining Room)**

The refurbishment of Maple Hall is just about complete...and it is looking amazing! We are conscious that for meal times there is the potential for large gatherings of people from different classes and so we are introducing some Covid-secure control measures, which include the following:

- Face masks will need to be worn as you enter the building and whilst you are being served. You can then remove your face mask whilst at your table and whilst eating. Please replace your face mask when you leave your table.
- There will be a one-way system in operation. Please follow the directions as indicated by signage.
- There will be daily temperature testing which will happen on your arrival for lunch each day.
- There will be an extended service period which will help to spread out the number of people in the Hall at any one time. Students with afternoon lessons will have priority over those who don't, if the need arises.
- Seating in the dining room will be limited although you may sit outside. Please be prepared to wait if there are not enough seats. We have put up two marquees which will provide some additional covered outside seating.

### **Will we be able to have social gatherings?**

It is our understanding that activities organised by the College or the student committee will be exempt from the 'Rule of 6' (introduced on 14<sup>th</sup> September) banning social activities with more than 6 people as they fall under the heading of Higher Education provision. However, informal social gatherings (that you arrange yourself) are subject to the 'Rule of 6'. Therefore, please respect this legal requirement at all times both inside and outside and make sure that you are not part of a group larger than 6 people for any informal activity including walks, fire pit gatherings, use of the Games room, relaxing in one of the lounges etc. In some smaller rooms, the maximum number of 6 people will need to be reduced but this will be shown on the door to the room.

### **Will we be able to use the Games Room?**

Subject to the 'Rule of 6' (see above) you will be able to use the Games Room for relaxation and enjoyment. Please make sure that you follow the Covid-19 precautions as indicated by the signs displayed in the rooms. The gym may only be used by a maximum of 2 people from the same household at any one time and all equipment must be thoroughly cleaned after use.

### **What precautions is the College taking to reduce the risk of a Covid-19 outbreak on the site?**

Over the summer we have been working hard to think through all of the usual arrangements for living and studying on site and what measures we will need to put in place to mitigate the risks posed by Covid-19. The main measures are:

- You will form a household with those people with whom you share a bathroom / kitchen. For single students living in our main accommodation (Oak House) this will mean forming a household with up to 5 or 6 others. For families in rooms on the second floor of Easneye House this will mean the whole floor (other than the Guest Flat). For those in the Wainery, this means the whole of the Wainery.
- The households will, as far as possible, be made up of students all from the same class (This will unfortunately mean that we will be asking a small handful of returning students to move rooms to facilitate this measure. The few students who need to move rooms have all now been contacted.
- Within your household's accommodation you are not required to maintain 2m social distancing or to wear a face mask, but sensible precautions and frequent cleaning of shared facilities (e.g. toilets, baths, showers, kitchen surfaces) is essential. Also, make sure that washing up is done straight away and that t-towels are changed frequently

- Members of one household may NOT enter another household (this means that the Wainery kitchen is out of bounds except for Wainery residents and anyone else given special permission). Whilst we understand that an informal visit to a friend in another wing is a natural part of normal College life, unfortunately times are not normal. It is important that everyone has a safe space where they know that only their household will be and where you know that you don't need to worry about social distancing or wearing a face mask.
- If you develop symptoms the procedure is this (see more detailed guidance at the end of this document):
  1. Stay in your room
  2. Inform the Head of Operations (Steve Tompkins) or the Pastoral Tutor (Jan Barlow) in Steve's absence
  3. Call 119 to book a Covid-19 test
  4. Tell others in your household that you have Covid-19 symptoms and explain that ALL of you need to self-isolate together until you receive a negative Covid test. If the test result is positive, all members of the household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. In this case, we will arrange for meals to be brought to you all. If the test result is negative, you may all resume normal activities
- We will be doing daily temperature checks for everyone so that we can be confident that nobody has a fever (high temperature).
- Everyone is required to wash their hands regularly and to use hand sanitiser when required on arrival at College, on entering buildings, before meals, at the start of lessons and on entry to the library, Games room and gym
- Everyone is required to wear a face mask in public areas in all buildings where it is difficult to maintain a 2 metre distance from other people. Exceptions to this are for lessons (see below) and whilst eating (although you will need to wear a face mask whilst getting your meal in the servery). If you have hidden disabilities and would find wearing face mask difficult, please let Steve or the Head students know and an exemption can be applied. The exemption will be signified to others by the wearing a green Sunflower lanyard or wrist band (these can be provided or you can source your own, if required)
- Classrooms will be set out to allow for social distancing. However, where space is limited you will not need to socially distance from those in your household. There may be some class activities where you will need to wear a face mask, so please make sure that you carry a face mask at all times.
- Everyone will be expected to observe social distancing at all times and to abide by signage around the site to control the movement of people.
- In line with government guidelines, private social gatherings must not exceed 6 people (inside or outside) and everyone involved in the gathering must abide by Covid-secure measures: gatherings to be short, held outside if possible, abide by 2m social distancing, wear a face mask (if inside), ensure the space in which you are meeting is well ventilated (if inside).
- Gatherings of people for official College activities (including any organised by the student committee) are allowed under government guidance and, as required, will be fully risk assessed with the organisers putting in place Covid-secure measures.
- Resident guests will not be allowed for the time being, but this measure will be kept under review.
- Non-resident guests will be allowed as long as they are not displaying any symptoms and that that they stay outside or in public areas of buildings (with a face mask). Non-resident

guests are not allowed in any residential accommodation. Non-resident guests MUST sign in at Reception and MUST provide contact details (they need to be aware that in the event of any subsequent Covid-19 outbreak at the College, they may be contacted as part of the UK Track and Trace scheme and in this case may need to self-isolate for 14 days)

- The College will investigate any reports of deliberate breaches of any of the Covid-19 measures as outlined in this document and any further information provided, and disciplinary action may be taken in line with the College's Student Conduct, Conflict, and Student Disciplinary policy and procedure.
- Should you become unwell and find that this is affecting your studies, inform your tutor and together you can discuss what support you may need
- We are very conscious that you may, from time to time, feel anxious about living through a pandemic especially if you are a long way from home. All members of staff will be very willing to listen to your concerns and, where appropriate, offer prayer support. Our pastoral team will provide specific opportunities for you to share your concerns and will provide support for you. No concern is ever too big or too small to share.

### **What will happen if I develop Covid-19 symptoms when at College?**

As soon as you think you may have ANY symptom of Covid-19 (high temperature, new and persistent cough, breathing difficulties, loss of taste or smell), you MUST:

1. Stay in your room / accommodation
2. Inform the Head of Operations (Steve Tompkins) [s.tompkins@allnations.ac.uk](mailto:s.tompkins@allnations.ac.uk) or the Pastoral tutor (Jan Barlow) [j.barlow@allnations.ac.uk](mailto:j.barlow@allnations.ac.uk) without delay and follow the information given
3. Book and take a Covid-19 test as soon as possible (see this link for information about how to book a Covid test <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>) and follow the medical advice provided. If you need help with transport to take a Covid test, please let the Head of Operations know and we can arrange transport for you. **You (and your household – your family or those you share a kitchen/bathroom with) must self-isolate until you get a negative Covid test result.** If you are well enough, you can access your lessons remotely via Zoom. Children must not go to school or nursery during this time or have any contact with any other family or other students. For those in full board accommodation, the College will arrange for food to be brought to you.
4. Inform your personal tutor and course administrator by email.
5. As soon as you receive your Covid test result, inform the Head of Operations (Steve Tompkins). If the Covid test is negative, you and your household can resume normal activities
6. If the Covid test is positive, you and your household will need to self-isolate for 14 days. If anyone else becomes ill, repeat the process already outlined in 1 – 5. Each subsequent person who becomes ill will need to isolate for a minimum of 10 days and until feeling better. If your symptoms worsen, seek medical advice by calling 111 or 999 (for emergencies) and keep the Head of Operations informed of your progress.