

COVID-19 – SEPTEMBER UPDATE FOR STUDENTS

Welcome to All Nations, the 2020 Academic Year is about to begin, and we have even more students than last year joining us from around the world, online, onsite and a mixture of the two! Really hope you've had some rest and refreshment over the summer and are ready to engage in all that is ahead! I am so excited to see you here on site and on screens as well!

We have been delighted this week to welcome the first of our resident students and student families to College as preparations for the start of the new academic year are in full swing. Those arriving at College from non-travel corridor countries are now undertaking their 14 day quarantine period in readiness for the start of the term.

We are, of course, looking forward to welcoming you all for the new academic year whether as part of the physical on-site community at Easneye or as part of the on-line community. We recognise that whilst many people are planning on being part of the residential community, others are not yet in a position to be able to do so. For this reason, whilst teaching and community events will take place in person this term, they will also be provided on-line. The hybrid nature of what is on offer gives ultimate flexibility so that should you become ill for whatever reason, feel vulnerable or you simply cannot get to the Easneye site, you will very much be able to engage with the College community from this September.

The College is continuing to monitor developments in the Covid-19 global pandemic and the UK government responses very carefully and is continuing to strengthen Covid-secure measures on site to minimise the risk of the transmission of Covid-19 infection. The main measures that you need to be aware of now are outlined below, other more detailed information (e.g. measures around the use of the Games room) will be outlined during orientation for those who will be on site.

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 (Thursday, 10th 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.

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. We will be writing to those affected in the next couple of days).
- 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).
- 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 except for in lessons (see below) and whilst eating (although you will need to wear a face mask whilst getting your meal in the canteen).
- 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.
- 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 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.

The next scheduled update will be published on Friday, 18th September. This will include detailed information about what to do when you arrive at College and during the first few days of term.