

Dear Students,

I hope this email finds you well, and you've had a relaxing and enjoyable festive period. I apologise for disrupting your break but I need to re-emphasize our arrangements for return to campus in the weeks ahead.

As you will be aware, government restrictions have tightened in relation to the increasing rate of Covid-19 infections. As the majority of our students are not due to return to face-to-face teaching until 1st February, the changes in government guidance will have limited impact. Students on teacher training or social work courses commencing in January should continue to follow the guidance from your departments, as previously communicated. Performing Arts students who were scheduled to return earlier for rehearsals and practical assessments will no longer be able to return as planned but will receive direct guidance from your department. In addition, all students are expected to receive a communication from the Minister for Universities later today.

I would also like to update you on arrangements for Covid-19 lateral flow testing (LFT) once you return to campus for your studies in January or February. As you may be aware, the UK Government has requested all UK Universities to offer lateral flow tests (LFT) for students from January 2021 onward. These tests will help to identify Covid-19 cases in individuals who are asymptomatic, which means they are not showing any standard symptoms. Detecting these cases will help to prevent the spread of Coronavirus across our campuses, which is critical to ensure we can manage any outbreaks and avoid any local lockdowns.

Your participation in this LFT testing programme will help to keep you, your family and friends and our staff safe. Whilst the tests are voluntary, we need students to behave responsibly and we politely request your participation in the testing programme when you return.

The test centre will be based at the Bishop Otter Campus within the SU building. Tests are free, and there is no pre-booking required initially, although we will keep this approach under review. Students can simply arrive, be tested and results will be available normally within an hour. The centre will open from Friday 8th January and will operate on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday each week - opening times are listed on our website.

We recognise you may have questions about opening hours, the test itself and how you will obtain results. Therefore, we are asking all students to read the FAQ's which are available from our dedicated website. These FAQ's should answer most of your questions. Any remaining questions you might have can be directed to covidreport@chi.ac.uk

Please note, there are three other important requests;

- If you have **any** Covid-19 symptoms, please DO NOT attend the LFT testing centre. You need to book a PCR test through the normal NHS website [here](#).
- Please bring suitable ID and your mobile phone with you to the test centre. The phone will be required to receive your test results
- If you are currently staying in a Tier 4 area (highest risk of infection), you may find that tests are available to you before you leave that area. If so, then we would ask you to secure a test in your local area before travelling back to the University following the Christmas break.

Once again, please do attend the test centre when you return in January at the earliest opportunity.

With the vaccine programme now under way, I hope that we can all look forward to a much better New Year.

Best Wishes,

Professor Jane Longmore
Vice-Chancellor