

Infection Control Management Principles

The following general principles set out the framework within which the University will minimise risk associated with respiratory infections, including COVID and influenza. They form part of and should be read in conjunction with our [Infection Control Planning Guidance](#).

The following general advice, to minimise risk associated with respiratory infections, underpins all subsequent recommendations and should be followed, even if individuals are fully vaccinated:

1. The University will make every reasonable effort to ensure all staff and students can work or study safely, whether activity is on site or remote.
2. All activities will be subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment (see also [Infection Control risk assessment guidance](#), [Occasional Homeworking Guidance](#) and [Flexible working guidance](#)).
3. If displaying symptoms of respiratory infection, such as COVID-19 (e.g. a high temperature or not feeling well enough to carry out your normal activities), you are expected to stay at home, follow the [Government guidance for people with respiratory infections](#) and inform the University using our [reporting form](#). You should also use this form to inform the University if you test positive for COVID-19 and do not have any symptoms. If you are not sure whether you should complete the form, please contact safetyunit@gre.ac.uk
4. If you develop symptoms whilst on site, you should tell your line manager / personal tutor and immediately return to your term time address. The University will then follow the arrangements set out in section 8 – Infection Control.
5. Staff who are informed about an actual or potential COVID-19 case should direct the individual to complete our [reporting form](#)
6. Anyone who is concerned about attending campus, due to being at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they are infected, should discuss this with their line manager / personal tutor. Those who have a weakened immune system are advised to continue to take extra precautions to protect themselves in line with [current guidance](#). An occupational health referral may be appropriate for staff in these circumstances and should be discussed between the individual and their line manager. Students whose courses include essential practical elements such as labs or clinical skills sessions will be required to attend these, after additional mitigations have been put in place to ensure the environment is as safe as possible.
7. All staff and students should regularly wash their hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds, particularly after touching surfaces, eating, drinking or smoking. Sanitiser may be used if soap and water are not immediately available.
8. Coughs and sneezes should be covered with a tissue and disposed of immediately (or into your elbow if no tissue) followed by hand washing as above.
9. Staff and students should endeavour to maintain a degree of social distancing from those who are not part of their household.
10. Wearing a face covering can reduce your risk of spreading respiratory infection to others and can also provide some protection to the wearer. During times when case rates for respiratory infections are high, and / or a risk assessment deems it necessary, we strongly encourage staff and students to wear a face covering in crowded indoor settings (e.g. inside University buildings and vehicles, and on public transport) in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.
11. Staff and students will be provided with relevant health and safety information, instruction or training as relevant to their role / activities.