

Dealing with local lockdown arrangements

In light of measures introduced by the government in parts of the country, here is the College of Animal Welfare's guidance on dealing with local lockdown measures.

Restrictions relating to Covid-19 may continue for some time or be lifted and then be imposed again in response to further national or localised outbreaks. The principles within this document will still apply, subject to the lifting of subsequent Covid-19 restrictions.

Local lockdown arrangements

As local lockdowns could be announced at short notice, and may vary in the nature of the restrictions, the College may not be able to immediately highlight them to students if they occur out of office hours. We will however publish details to aid students and employers where there are plans for local lockdown in the area where our centres are located.

The College's risk assessment and plan was written in anticipation of local lockdowns and is designed to enable staff and students to act swiftly when a local lockdown is announced. Staff and students should use their professional judgement to immediately and appropriately adapt their working practices. These measures will help protect local residents from COVID-19 infection and the college community as a whole.

Check information with official local sources

There may be a lag between a government announcement and guidance being published by the local public health and NHS/health services. In the first instance, please verify any announcement through a trusted news or government source and then look to your local council for information on the geographic area that is included.

Follow relevant College guidance

If you are working in an area that returns to lockdown, we advise that you should immediately follow the guidance set out below.

You should take the following actions as soon as the announcement has been made:

1. The health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff, visitors, and the wider community will be the priority in decisions relating to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions at the College.
2. Do not come to the College. Check with your placement or employer what their local arrangements are.
3. If you are due to attend a College campus for any reason contact the College to inform them of the situation. Any cancellation fees will be waived due to the situation being out of your control.
4. Remain in lockdown until advised otherwise

5. Students should continue to follow the College's guidance on infection control, social distancing and PPE.
6. When the restrictions are lifted rearrange with your tutor to return to the College sites. Complete a new risk assessment and health declaration before returning to centre.

The College will take the following actions:

7. Review the teaching, learning and assessment to ensure that there is the required flexibility in place to deliver a high-quality experience to those unable to attend the college.
8. Support students to achieve their learning outcomes in a safe manner.
9. Regularly review the welfare and mental health needs of students. Students will have access to "Togetherall" (formerly Big White Wall) a safe 24/7 community to support mental health as restrictions are eased.
10. Continue to develop, maintain and review effective processes to welcome and support students and staff, including throughout any self-isolation period.
11. Provide an early warning system identifying possible Covid-19 incidents among staff, students, or visitors.