Dear Students and Parents / Guardians / Carers

## ****COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS****

Welcome back to our students, returning and new, and we hope that you have settled in during your first week of term. We received Department for Education guidance to help us prepare for the new academic year and although COVID-19 restrictions are easing across the country, it goes without saying that student and staff safety will remain our top priority.

Our ‘Keeping you safe ‘guide sets out our expectations whilst studying on campus. This can be found [here](https://ieg.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Keeping-You-Safe_IEG_Aug2021final-version.pdf) . Please take time to read this information.

### **COVID-19 LATERAL FLOW ONSITE TESTING**

From the start of term, on-site COVID-19 lateral flow testing (LFT) has taken place and all students will be offered the opportunity to be tested twice during their first two weeks of term. Whilst the decision to take a test remains optional, all students and staff will be strongly encouraged to participate in testing to allow us to quickly identify any asymptomatic COVID-19 cases and ultimately, keep our college community as safe as possible.

### **COVID-19 TESTING AT HOME**

All students will be encouraged to continue with home testing using COVID-19 lateral flow tests (LFT). Home testing kits will be provided to all students during their second week, but there will also be some available to collect from the reception areas.

As it stands, the advice for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms remains unchanged, **so you should NOT come to college and must inform us of your absence if:** you have COVID symptoms or you have had a positive (PCR or LFT) test result.

On confirmation of a positive test result taken externally to the college, students should immediately inform their relevant college by email.

Stamford College – safeguarding@stamford.ac.uk

Peterborough College / UCP – safeguarding@peterborough.ac.uk

Please ensure you state your name, course and leave a contact telephone number.

### **MANDATORY WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS**

From Monday 13th September, Inspire Education Group has taken the decision that **face coverings should temporarily be worn in all communal areas (indoors) and on college transport** by students, staff and visitors, unless exempt. This is following a number of positive cases reported during the first week of term and is an attempt to minimise disruption and keep the college community as safe as possible.

## ****COVID-19 VACCINE****

If you’re aged 16 or over, you’re now eligible to receive your COVID-19 vaccine, which you can get at a local walk-in clinic. Although the NHS will contact you when it's your turn to get the vaccine, there are walk-in clinics available for you to attend where you can get your vaccine there and then.

We strongly encourage all those who are eligible to have the vaccine to do so, so that you can enjoy the full-range of opportunities available at college without disruption to your studies. Ensuring our college community is as safe as possible is our top priority. [You can find your nearest drop-in clinic here.](https://bit.ly/3B4Wjiz)

The vaccination bus will also be at Peterborough Campus on Thursday 16th September and appointments can be booked [here](https://sites.google.com/ieg.ac.uk/student-intranet/information/vaccinations)

**GUIDANCE**

The government has issued specific guidance for Further Education and Higher Education, you can access this by clicking these links [FE COVID operational Guidance Aug 2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-further-education-provision/further-education-covid-19-operational-guidance) and [HE Operational Guidance Aug 2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campuses/higher-education-covid-19-operational-guidance)

**HOW TO STOP COVID-19 SPREADING**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19: **Do**

* **wash your hands with soap and water often, for at least 20 seconds**
* **use hand sanitiser gel**
* **cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze**
* **put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards**
* **wear a face covering when in communal areas and on college transport**
* **continue to test at home at least twice a week**

**FINALLY**

As a group we are doing all that we can to protect our students and staff, your health and safety remain our absolute priority.  We are committed to ensuring we do all we can to enable all of our students to progress to their next step.

Kind Regards



Sarah Young

Vice Principal Student & Staff Experience Inspire Education Group