



**Update: 10 December 2021**

Dear Students / Parents / Guardians / Carers

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Following the Prime Ministers statement on the new COVID-19 variant Omicron and the announcement of further restrictions on 8 December 2021 we are writing to all students, parents, guardians and carers to update you on our mitigations and remind you of our expectations. We expect all students to comply with the government guidance which can be found [HERE](#) in full.

It is vitally important for everyone, including those that are fully vaccinated, to follow the instructions in this letter and to help limit the spread of COVID-19.

### **Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing (TWICE A WEEK)**

All students are asked to perform TWO COVID-19 tests a week at home. Home testing kits have been provided to all students and further supplies are available to collect from main reception desks across our campuses.

### **Self-Isolation - If you test positive (LFD) for COVID-19**

Students who receive a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay at home guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection. They will also need to get a free PCR test to check if they have COVID-19. Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and the student can return to campus, as long as the individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

### **Do not attend if you have symptoms**

If a student has COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive (PCR or LFD) test result they should NOT attend campus and must inform us of their absence by emailing: [safeguarding@stamford.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stamford.ac.uk) or [safeguarding@peterborough.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@peterborough.ac.uk)

### **Record your test results**

Students are reminded to log their COVID-19 test results on the Student Hub and NHS system. Guidance on how to record results can be found on the Student Hub [Here](#)



**Peterborough**  
College



**Stamford**  
College



University Centre  
**Peterborough**

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### **Self-Isolation - If you test positive (PCR) for COVID-19**

NHS Test and Trace now undertake all track and trace activity. If you test positive for COVID-19 they will contact you and confirm the date you need to self-isolate until. This is a legal requirement and you should follow this instruction. Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 that is not the Omicron variant.

### **Self-Isolation - If you test positive (PCR) for COVID-19 Omicron variant**

If you test positive for COVID-19 Omicron variant, NHS Test and Trace will contact you and confirm the date you need to self-isolate until. This is a legal requirement and you should follow this instruction.

As this is a new variant and scientists are still working through the associated dangers there may be enhanced self-isolation requirements which will include anyone who is identified as a close contact. NHS Test and Trace will contact individuals who are deemed a close contact and inform them whether they are legally required to self-isolate. If they're not legally required to self-isolate, they will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if they do not have symptoms, they will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible. If they are symptomatic they should stay at home.

### **If you test positive (LFD) or feel unwell when you are at college**

If anyone tests positive whilst on campus or develops COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, we are advised to send them home and they should follow public health guidance. Individuals will be given appropriate first aid and care, isolated from others in an appropriate and ventilated space and arrangements for safe travel home will be made.

### **Get the COVID-19 Vaccine**

We strongly encourage all those who are eligible to have the vaccine to do so, so that they can enjoy the full-range of opportunities available at college without disruption to their studies. Ensuring our Group's community is as safe as possible is our top priority. [You can find your nearest drop-in clinic here.](#)

### **Mandatory wearing of face coverings**

All students, staff and visitors are now required to wear a face covering when walking around campus, in all communal areas and on college transport, unless exempt. Students that are exempt are asked to have their exemption card visible or visit the Wellbeing Teams for a pass. We have given out a significant amount of disposable face coverings over the last three months and given that the government is making the wearing of face coverings mandatory we now expect all students to bring their own face covering. Students are advised to have several face coverings so that they can wear a clean face covering each day.

Face visors or shields can be worn by those exempt from wearing a face covering but they are not an equivalent alternative in terms of source control of virus transmission. We are asking all individuals who have been previously exempt from wearing a face covering to reconsider whether they now wish to revisit this and wear a face covering given the many unknowns regarding the new Omicron variant.

### **Wash your hands and maintain good hygiene**

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. All students should clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitizer which are readily available around all campuses.

### **Ventilate rooms**

Students are reminded that ventilation is an important way to mitigate the risk of catching COVID-19. If you can ventilate rooms please do so. You should balance the need to increase ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature. Students are advised to bring additional layers of clothing during the winter period to ensure they are warm.

### **Practice Social Distancing**

Whilst there is no formal requirement to socially distance we are asking all students to minimise, where possible, close contact with other individuals. This will reduce the chance of catching COVID-19 and therefore reduce the risk of disruption to your education and illness.

### **Summary**

The arrival of the Omicron variant is somewhat concerning and we do not yet know the extent of which it may cause added disruption dependant on the extent to which Omicron spreads and the self-isolation requirements of close contacts.

Our priority is to ensure that all staff and students are safe and that our students continue to have face to face education as much as possible. We know that remote and online education, however well delivered, cannot replicate the building of relationships between students and staff or the close supervision and hands-on training vital to developing vocational competence. For these reasons it is essential that students follow the guidance and minimise the chance of further disruptions to learning.

Thank you for your cooperation.



#### **Janet Meenaghan**

CEO Inspire Education Group  
& Principal of Stamford College



#### **Rachel Nicholls**

Deputy CEO Inspire Education Group  
& Principal of Peterborough College

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# STOP!

## COVID-19 Alert

-  **1 Test regularly**  
Test twice a week and record your results
-  **2 Wash your hands**  
Wash your hands thoroughly and regularly
-  **3 Get the vaccine**  
Book your vaccination online at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)
-  **4 Wear a face covering**
  - Face coverings reduce Covid transmission by **53%\***
  - Disposable masks are costly and damaging to the environment, bring a face covering with you

**Act now to help keep our College safe**

\*source: World Health Organisation

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