



## **COVID-19 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Is West Lancashire College Open?**

West Lancashire College is open and delivering a normal campus experience as much as possible for all of our students. That means on-campus lessons, a full timetable and full access to all campus facilities.

Safety remains our highest priority and we're working hard to make sure that campus remains a safe place to learn. This means that there will continue to be some safety measures in place across campus such as signs to 'Keep Left' and we remind everybody that wearing a face covering when moving around campus is now required under government guidance.

We are also fully prepared in case any wider restrictions are reintroduced and you can find out what plans we have put in place to continue delivering teaching and learning here.

Students and colleagues **MUST NOT** attend campus if they test positive for Covid-19, or are required to self-isolate.

### **Do I need to wear a face covering?**

The latest Government guidance (announced 27 November) outlines that face coverings should now be worn in communal areas of colleges unless you are exempt. This means that all students are expected to wear “masks on the move” within corridors and when moving around the College.

This new guidance does not apply to classrooms and face coverings do not have to be worn inside classrooms unless you choose to do so. There may be some exceptions to this, however, any changes will be communicated to you by your Tutor.

### **Should I take part in home testing?**

All students and colleagues are encouraged to continue testing at home twice weekly.

All home test results should be reported to both West Lancashire College and the NHS, even if your results are negative, using the links below. (We recommend bookmarking these links on your phone):

[Report to West Lancashire College](#)

[Report to NHS](#)

## **How do I report home testing results?**

All home test results should be reported to both Newcastle College and the NHS, even if your results are negative, using the links below. (We recommend bookmarking these links on your phone):

[Report to West Lancashire College](#)

[Report to NHS](#)

## **What if I test positive for Covid-19?**

If you take a Lateral Flow test and your test result is positive, you will be required to report this to the [NHS](#) and to [West Lancashire College](#).

You should also book a PCR test to confirm your result. If your PCR is positive, you must let your Personal Tutor know as soon as possible. This will allow close contacts to be identified and supported to self-isolate if required.

**You must not attend campus after receiving a positive Lateral Flow or PCR test.**

## **What if I get Symptoms of Covid-19?**

If you develop symptoms of Covid-19, it is really important that you DO NOT ATTEND campus. The main symptoms include a fever, a new and continuous cough, or a loss of taste and smell.

If you develop one or more of the main symptoms of Covid-19 you should stay at home for the [time recommended by the NHS](#) and book a test [here](#).

You should not return to campus until you receive a negative test result or your isolation period has finished.

If you are already at college when you develop symptoms, you will be asked to go to an isolated room before going home to isolate and book a test.

You should inform the college of your test results as soon as you receive them.

## **What if I am told to self-isolate?**

You should always follow NHS guidance and self-isolate when told it is necessary, and undergo a test if required. This means you should isolate if you develop symptoms, or if you are identified as a close contact of a positive case.

If you develop symptoms while isolating, please book a test. If you test negative you should still continue to isolate for the remainder of the time advised.

If you have a test you should inform your Personal Tutor of your test results as soon as you receive them via Microsoft Teams.

### **What if I, or someone I live with, is high risk?**

Your health and wellbeing is our first priority and West Lancashire College is here to support you.

We understand that some students may be at additional risk or feel anxious about attending college, particularly if you have an underlying health condition, are part of the BAME community or live with someone who is vulnerable.

Please be reassured that we have taken all possible and suitable precautions to ensure that our campus is a safe place to study.

If you have any health concerns about attending college please speak to your Personal Tutor, who will be able to ensure we put the right support in place for you.

### **Do I need to be vaccinated to attend college?**

Vaccines are not mandatory but if you can get vaccinated, it is the quickest way to protect yourself and others against the transmission and effects of Covid-19.

Vaccines are now available to anyone aged 12 and over.

Find your nearest vaccination site [here](#).

### **Colleague and Student Reminder**

If you develop symptoms or test positive for Covid-19, it is important that you DO NOT ATTEND campus. You should self-isolate for the time required by the NHS before returning to campus. You may also need to isolate if someone you live with has symptoms or has tested positive, or if you've been told to self-isolate following contact with someone who tested positive.