

9th November 2020

Dear Students,

A number of enquiries have been raised in relation to the current Lock Down 2 and attendance for placements. Last week programme teams confirmed that students on a healthcare programme are deemed essential workers and could continue to attend placement.

For those of you who are already on placement, or about to go on placement within that time span, there will be no change to these plans, unless you are otherwise notified of a change by the university and/or placement provider. As per earlier announcements, students have been designated essential workers, enabling them to travel to/from and work at NHS and other health and social care settings. Students with essential worker status are also able to obtain Covid-19 tests and seasonal flu vaccinations.

There have been some additional emails in relation to the need for shielding and extremely vulnerable groups.

The latest Government advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#protecting-people-more-at-risk-from-coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19#national-restrictions-begin-in-england-from-5-november>

The advice confirms that if you have been determined extremely clinically vulnerable and previously received a letter from the a physician or GP with advice to shield – you should do so for this current lockdown period also. The UWE Risk Assessment process will have identified all those extremely clinically vulnerable and support is available from your programme teams.

If you have additional vulnerabilities, you should exercise more caution and follow handwashing / PPE / social distancing advice. If after the Occupational Health COVID risk assessment you have been identified as being Amber risk , precaution with placement allocation has been taken to avoid COVID cases and high risk areas; but should you have concerns that your placement area is increasing in risk please contact your local Practice Education Lead and practice support line **0117 32 81152**.

Please continue to follow the Central UWE <https://www.uwe.ac.uk/news/coronavirus/students> and Government advice.

Best Wishes

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