

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID RULES, GUIDANCE & SUPPORT

Effective from 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The following document sets out key information to explain Scottish COVID regulations and guidance and how they are applied at Heriot Watt University. The guidance reflects changes to the rules on social gatherings introduced by the Scottish Government on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and [Guidance on Visits Home](#) published by the Scottish Government on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

We understand that it can be difficult to navigate the new Covid context, but the University is here to help you keep yourself and the wider University community safe in line with the **Heriot Watt University Global Community Covid19 Pledge**:

*“Heriot-Watt University is a global community.*

*During the coronavirus pandemic it is more important than ever that we act in a way that demonstrates our mutual respect for one another, consistent with our University’s values.*

*Together we will act in a way which demonstrates consideration and respect for those within and beyond the University community by following Government and University guidance related to reducing the spread of Covid19.”*

The rules and guidance are in place to protect you and others who live and work within the University and wider community.

### FACTS

At the heart of the Scottish Government’s approach is the FACTS advice:

- Face coverings in enclosed spaces
- Avoid crowded places
- Clean your hands and surfaces regularly
- Two meters (2m) physical distancing
- Self-isolate and book a test if you develop coronavirus symptoms.

You will receive clear guidance on where face coverings are required within your accommodation setting (University or private provider), in teaching and studying spaces, when accessing our student services and in any retail or commercial space. There will also be clear signage when you enter the campus to explain the rules that are in place.

More information about where face-coverings are required on-campus is available [here](#)

A sensible approach to take is that if you are in any doubt and indoors (but not in your household) then you should wear a face covering.

## **Quarantine/Self-Isolation**

There are three reasons why you many need to Self-isolate:

- You have travelled from a country not exempt from quarantine requirements.
- Because you have been instructed to do so by Public Health Scotland, either because you have tested positive, or you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.
- You are symptomatic or your housemate is symptomatic and they are awaiting a test/result.

During your period of self-isolation you must stay in your household, keep away from others and must not attend any University or external events.

If you are staying in University Halls of Residence, the Residence Life Team will support you during your period of self-isolation. If you are self-isolating in private accommodation then your accommodation provider will provide support and guidance.

Please be aware that failure to comply with the self-isolation rules is an offence and will result in disciplinary action by the University.

## **Guidance on Social Gatherings**

We recognise that opportunities to socialise will be more restricted than would normally be the case, but there is still plenty to do on-campus and in the wider City and its surroundings.

From 23 September, the rules on social gatherings are that:

- You should not meet in a household setting with people from any other household. *Within Heriot Watt University accommodation, a household is defined as a flat with a controlled entrance and a shared kitchen (it will normally contain between 5-12 other students depending on the flat size).*
- A maximum of six people from two households can meet in outdoor spaces (private gardens or public outdoors spaces). You should limit as far as possible the total number of households you meet in a day.
- A maximum of six people from two households can meet in public indoor spaces such as cafes, pubs and restaurants
- The House Party Offence provision has been extended to include student accommodation. This makes it an offence to attend a party in student accommodation or in a private dwelling.

Breaches of the rules on social gatherings and house parties will result in disciplinary action by the University and – in the case of the House Party provision – may result in Police action.

The Scottish Government has clarified that students who have already formed new households in halls of residence or private accommodation are considered to constitute a separate household. This means that all regulations and laws in relation to mixing of households will apply to student households in the same way as they do to the rest of the population. The Scottish Government issued more detailed '[Guidance on Visits Home](#)' on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Please refer to this guidance and if you are in University Halls and are considering returning to you home address on a permanent basis then e-mail

[halls@hw.ac.uk](mailto:halls@hw.ac.uk) who will put you in touch with our student success advisors team who will discuss your options with you.

### **Medical Registration**

Students staying in Halls of Residence are required to register with a local GP and for students at the Edinburgh Campus the Riccarton General Practice is located on the main campus. Information on how to register is available [here](#)

The Practice also covers students who are resident in the City of Edinburgh.

### **Protect Scotland App**

The [Protect Scotland App](#) from NHS Scotland's Test and Protect is a free, mobile phone app designed to help us protect each other, reduce the spread of coronavirus and avoid further lockdowns.

Using the Protect Scotland app, along with sticking to current public health measures, will help us to stay safe when we meet up, socialise, work or travel.

We strongly recommend that you download the App along with the University's [SafeZone](#) app to keep yourself and others safe by helping suppress the spread of coronavirus.

### **Guidelines on accessing the campus, teaching spaces and keeping safe**

We are excited to welcome you to the start of the new academic year. In order to keep you safe, we've had to make some changes to the campus, so things will look a little different. More detailed information on accessing the campus for teaching is available [here](#)

### **What to do if anyone in your household feels ill**

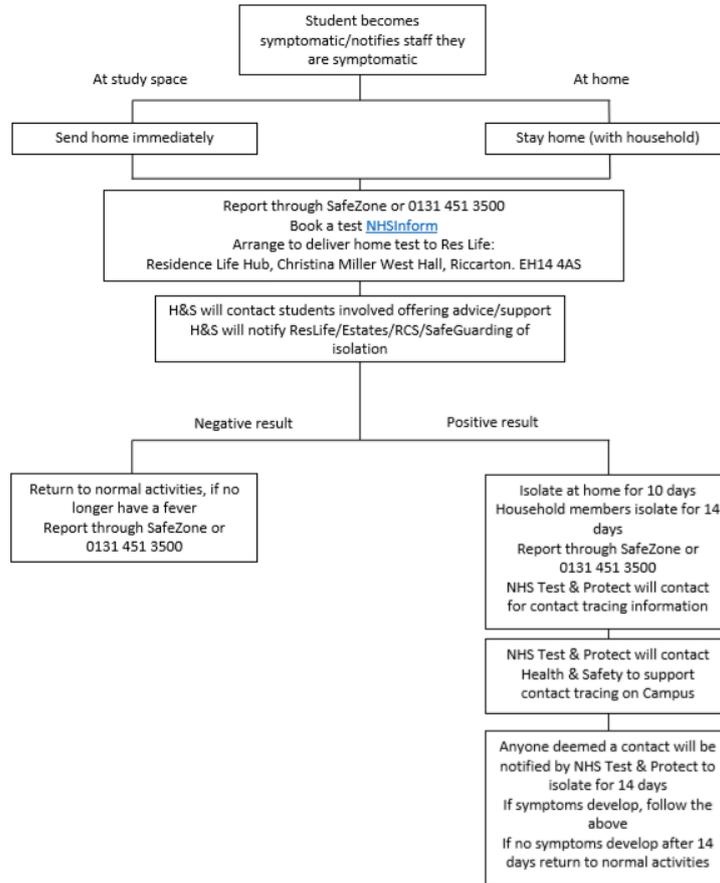
If you, or a member of your household, develop the following symptoms:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia).

Then you should notify the University immediately. The attached flowcharts explain what you must do – please refer to the appropriate flowchart depending on whether you are staying in University accommodation on-campus or staying in an alternative accommodation provider.

If you receive a positive test result please contact the University's SafeGuarding Services straight away. If you have been contacted by the NHS Test and Protect team you should also notify SafeGuarding Services. Report through [SafeZone](#) or by phoning 0131 451 3500.

Flowchart for dealing with suspected COVID cases related to Student (living on campus)



Flowchart for dealing with suspected COVID cases related to Student (living off campus)

