

Covid-19 Guidance for Fitzwilliam College – from 22 October 2021

The guiding principle for the College remains the wellbeing and safety of all members of our community. It is our shared responsibility to create a supportive environment in which all can live and work.

While the 19th July marked a shift in the UK's **legal restrictions** with regard to the management of the pandemic, and our previous guidance from 17 September, it remains our **shared responsibility** to minimise the spread of the virus within the College community:

- **If you feel unwell or have any symptoms of Covid-19, please do not come to the College, or if in residence in College please do not leave your accommodation.**
- Members of the College are asked to follow current government requirements on Covid testing and self-isolation. The College encourages members and visitors to regularly test themselves through the University's asymptomatic pooled testing programme for resident students or with the free government rapid lateral flow tests (LFT) which is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

Fitzwilliam is both our workplace and, for many of us, our home and as such we must take a measured and responsible approach to the changing infection rate. The College will adopt the following approach over the course of Michaelmas Term 2021 (assuming no change to the national guidelines over this period). The College will continue to monitor and respond to changes in the national guidelines as and when they occur.

This approach reflects the current guidance provided by the University of Cambridge <https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/news>.

Social Distancing and Ventilation

Members of the College community and visitors are encouraged to maintain courteous social distancing when in the College with consideration for other members of the College community.

As an educational setting and workplace, the College seeks to ensure that there is sufficient space to avoid close contact. We ask all members to be mindful of this, particularly when moving around the College environment and in busy areas such as the Buttery and Dining Hall, the Coffee Shop, entrances, and queues. The College encourages the use of maximum possible ventilation in rooms and asks members of the community to dress warmly to enable this.

As an additional measure, the College asks members and visitors to respect 1m+ social distancing in the following areas:

- a. the Library;
- b. where possible: in workspaces, meeting and teaching rooms, utilising the room risk assessments, where applicable

The College strongly encourages all members of the College community and visitors to:

- Practise frequent washing of hands and the use of sanitising gels;
- Keep all rooms and areas ventilated as much as possible; and
- Adhere to the guidelines below with regard to wearing a face mask.

Face Masks

Face masks are no longer compulsory in most public places but *their use in crowded spaces is strongly recommended*.

The College encourages members of the college community and visitors to wear face masks in busy internal College areas and wherever you prefer to do so in view of the occupancy and ventilation levels. Members of the college community should respect an individual's decision regarding the wearing of a face mask.

In shared workspaces or during meetings, you are asked to discuss with colleagues whether you wish to wear a mask. Please be mindful that not all colleagues or students will be comfortable in removing masks, while others are unable to wear them; both should be respected. The College requests that you consider wearing a face mask when requested to do so by a colleague, as a courtesy to others.

College staff servicing private areas, including student households or bedrooms, or residential accommodation, or occupied workspace will be encouraged to wear face masks.

Visitor Policy

The restrictions previously placed on visitors to Fitzwilliam, due to the pandemic, are no longer applicable. Normal visitor protocols now apply.

Fitzwilliam College Services

Some of you will have been used to seeing the College Services Status Summary over the past year. These restrictions have now been lifted, and therefore the College is now operating its services in the usual manner, bearing in mind the social distancing and face mask guidelines set out above.