

Returning to College – everything you need to know

Everyone at MK College is delighted that we are able to welcome back more students from the 8th March in line with government guidance.

We are doing this in a steady and measured way to make sure you are able to return safely. This will include three phases as we ease back the restrictions since the New Year.

Phase 1 - From 8th March – Cautious easing from lockdown position

The first phase will see the gradual return of students to our campuses. The priority will be for those of you who need to prepare for exams or to catch up on learning where you need access to our facilities. All time on-campus will be communicated by your tutor and your virtual lessons will continue as normal unless you are told otherwise.

Some students, such as those who have been accessing our campuses throughout lockdown and those in inclusive learning will return to campus in a similar way to before Christmas. Again, your tutor will be in touch to confirm.

Phase 2 – From 12th April – Return to on-campus and virtual mix

After Easter we hope to be able to welcome all students back to a learning pattern similar to what you experienced before Christmas, with at least 50% of your learning on-campus. You will also be able to book onto study centre spaces in a similar way to before. Before Christmas we had already managed to move a number of areas to on-campus learning for around 80% of course and we will continue to explore ways to increase your time on-site throughout the rest of your programme.

Phase 3 – Return to campus full time

A return for all students to on-campus learning, including the re-opening of social areas and facilities may not be possible until the summer, so realistically it could be next September before you are able to return to campus full time. We will be constantly assessing the risks and if it is possible to bring you back full-time ahead of this date we will of course do so.

Testing

Coronavirus testing will be one of a key set of measures to help ensure our campuses remain safe for all of us, for the rest of your programme.

Testing works by inserting a small swab to the back of your nostril and throat, it may be slightly uncomfortable but is painless.

There are three key elements to testing, which are all designed to make the experience as hassle-free as possible, whilst ensuring you understand how to test effectively.

Step 1

Visit the website address below to give your consent for testing. Whilst testing isn't mandatory it is highly recommended to keep you and those around you safe. You will only need to do this once ahead of your first test.

www.mkcollege.ac.uk/testing

Step 2

The first three times you test, you will do so at one of our testing sites either at the Bletchley or Chaffron Way campus. Here you will administer the test yourself but be supported by our fully trained teams. We have testing booths so the experience will be both safe and private. You will test when you come into college to learn and your tutor will share more information on this when you are invited back to college.

Step 3

Once you have been tested three times within the college, you will continue to test twice a week from home. We will give you testing kits to enable you to do this. Once you have tested it will be important to log your results at:

www.mkcollege.ac.uk/testing

If you are unable to test at home, this option will remain available to you throughout the duration of our testing programme.

That's it! You will likely continue with home testing, twice a week throughout the rest of your programme with us.

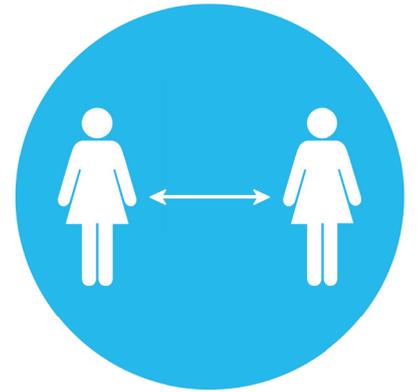
IMPORTANT

This type of testing is only designed to pick up cases of Coronavirus from those who have no symptoms. If you feel unwell in any way, please **STAY HOME** and if you do show symptoms of Coronavirus including a temperature, continuous cough or a lack of taste and / or smell please book a test through the NHS and do not attend a College test site.

Keeping safe at College

We know that mass testing only picks up some cases of the virus so we will be continuing with the safety measures we have been using throughout this academic year so far. This means:

2m social distancing wherever possible. This includes communal areas and corridors, following one-way staircases and within your subject group where practical



Masks to be worn in all communal areas and in classrooms where 2m distancing is not possible. Your tutor may also request you wear a mask in class even if you are able to stay 2m apart



Regular hand washing and cleaning. We will be cleaning more regularly whilst hand sanitiser stations will be situated throughout the college to help with hand washing

