

FAQs re COVID – Winter 2022

These FAQs will be updated as and when guidance changes or if additional points of detail are required.

Background

All members of our community must remain alert. It is clear that continued caution is still highly advisable and mitigations are required in order to continue to prioritise the health and safety of all members of our College community. It is hoped that these FAQs address all the key points about the mitigations the College has in place.

Please report any COVID cases to attendance@godalming.ac.uk (students) or to hr@godalming.ac.uk (staff)

The DfE guidance can be accessed here:

[Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance)

[Further education COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/further-education-covid-19-operational-guidance)

[Managing coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/managing-coronavirus-covid-19-in-education-and-childcare-settings)

As per the guidance, the College has a Contingency Plan which it regularly reviews in order to respond to a local outbreak if required.

Timetable

What are the timetable arrangements?

The College will be operating its normal timetable. This means an 8.45am start and 4.15pm finish and the usual morning break of 30 minutes and a lunchtime of an hour. All students should attend all lessons onsite, unless they have tested positive for COVID or have symptoms.

What is happening regarding Enrichment?

Enrichment can go ahead as planned and as per your timetable – students and staff will be following the latest guidance about what is allowed in relation to sport, music and drama.

What is happening to exams in 2022?

The Department for Education has stated its intention that Exams will go ahead in 2022, including those scheduled for early January. We are fully focused on ensuring that students are best prepared for these exams. The College will keep students/parents updated as appropriate.

Attendance and Support:

How is attendance and engagement being monitored?

You are expected to attend all lessons in person as per your timetable. All lessons will be registered and we will follow up unauthorised absences as usual.

Do students with underlying health conditions need to attend College?

Students and staff who are clinically extremely vulnerable can attend college. This includes students who are in households with people who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

I am very anxious about being onsite and/or feel I have been adversely affected by the lockdowns/COVID?

This is completely understandable, please contact your Personal Tutor or Health and Wellbeing Officer who are on hand to support and guide you. Staff should raise their concerns with their line manager or the HR department.

College Facilities:

Will there be catering facilities?

Yes, all of our catering outlets will be open on campus as usual.

Will the ILC be open?

Yes, it will be fully open and we expect students to wear face coverings, unless exempt, whilst in the ILC. Screens will remain in place between computer desks.

Will the gym be open?

Yes, the Gym will be open for individual use as well as use for teaching purposes.

Transport:

I need to travel by public transport what should I do?

Please be aware that face coverings are still required by many transport providers/companies.

I am going to use one of the College buses – what should I do?

There are no longer any requirements to wear face coverings on the College buses but we still encourage you to wear one.

Do you promote walking or cycling to College?

Walking or cycling are both very good for the environment and student/staff health. We have cycle racks for students/staff to store their bikes and for staff we operate the cycle to work scheme too.

COVID Symptoms:

What happens if a student or member of staff tests positive for COVID?

Anyone who has tested positive on either a LFD or PCR test should self-isolate for 10 days. Anyone who is self-isolating with COVID-19 has the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to College immediately on day 6. Anyone who develops symptoms during the day will be sent home (avoiding the use of public transport) and asked to follow the guidance for [households with possible coronavirus infection](#) and the guidance above. If you test positive on a LFD test, you do not need to take a PCR test. However, if you have any of the [main COVID symptoms](#), the advice is that you should go for a PCR test rather than take a LFD test.

The Government advises that you tell people you've been in close contact with in the past 48 hours that you might have COVID.

What happens if I come into close contact with a positive case?

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household or are a close contact if they are fully vaccinated and/or below the age of 18 years and 6 months. For more information, please ensure you read this self-isolation [guidance](#) carefully. If you are identified by NHS Track and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff and students should take a LFD each day for 7 days and report the results via the [Online Reporting System](#). If you are over 18 years and 6 months and have not yet been double vaccinated you should isolate and follow the guidance.

If I have to self-isolate and cannot come into College, how will I be taught?

You will be able to listen into your lessons via Teams/and or set the work to complete. If you are well enough to do so, please make sure you keep up to date with your classwork and homework until you are able to return to College.

Contact Tracing

Contact Tracing is now being conducted by NHS Test and Trace and not by individual schools and colleges. Contacts at Godalming College will only be traced where the individual identifies them as a close contact.

Health and Safety:

How is the College keeping students and staff safe?

Sanitation

All staff and students are asked to continue to maintain good hygiene, washing hands regularly, and take personal responsibility for keeping themselves safe as well as play their part in helping to keep our community safe.

Hand sanitisers and wipes will continue to be available in all classrooms and at various locations around the College campus, including the main entrance to every building.

Students and staff are also encouraged to bring their own hand sanitiser.

Ventilation

It continues to be important that spaces are well ventilated – doors and windows should remain open wherever possible. Individuals are responsible for ensuring this happens by opening (or leaving open) windows and doors.

Social Distancing

There is no longer any requirement to social distance onsite. Individuals can choose to maintain at least a two metre distance if possible. However, please note it is not possible for students to socially distance in the classrooms. Staff can choose to remain socially distanced from others, including within the classroom and can continue to attend whole staff meetings/staff briefings online rather than in person, if they so wish. We want all members of the College community to do what they feel comfortable with.

Do I have to wear a face covering?

As per the DfE guidance, last updated on 27th January, face coverings are no longer required to be worn anywhere on campus but all students, staff and visitors can continue to wear a face covering if they so wish. Staff and students should follow [wider advice on face coverings](#) outside of College, including on transport to and from College.

Mass Testing

We offered all our students two onsite tests in September.

Home Testing

All students and staff should continue to test themselves twice per week using the Lateral Flow Home Test Kits and report the results to the NHS. Students can pick up testing kits from Student Reception. DfE guidance has been updated to advise that anyone who tested positive within the last 90 days to keep doing regular LFD testing as well after their isolation period ends.

All Students and Staff are required to take a LFD test the day before returning back w/c College 4th January 2022.

National Vaccination Programme

COVID vaccination sites across the South East have bolstered their appointment capacity for walk-ins as well as pre-booked appointments. A full list of all places offering the vaccination across the South East, whether that be first or second doses, or the COVID booster [Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

To book an appointment – visit Book or manage your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk). People that can't go online can book by phoning 119.

For more details on eligibility, visit [Who can get the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Where can I find a copy of the College Risk Assessment?

The College has a College COVID Health and Safety Risk Assessment. It will be placed on Godalming Online and the Parents' Portal.

How does the College communicate about COVID related matters?

Regular reminders/updates will be shared with students via the Tutorial Bulletin and with parents/carers via the Parents' Bulletin and with staff at staff briefing/staff meetings. This FAQs document/our College COVID Risk Assessment and College website will be updated as guidance/requirements change.

Last updated 26th January 2022