

COVID 19 STAFF SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

Introduction

The safety of our staff is a top priority. We have therefore fully assessed the risks of working in the College in the new COVID-19 era, and are determined to do all that we can to make the environment as safe as possible. The full risk assessment and supporting documents are available at the following link: <https://www.wolfson.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2021-10/WOLF-W-COVID-19-001%20-%20Covid%20Risk%20Assessment.pdf>

We have used this risk assessment, as well as the Government's published advice, to develop this safety plan, which covers the general operation of the College. Heads of Department, in co-operation with the Health and Safety Manager, have conducted specific risk assessments and developed bespoke safety plans for each area of operation and will share those with the relevant staff. Heads of Department are responsible for implementing and managing safety measures in their teams.

In finalising this safety plan, we have consulted with all staff and taken their views and concerns on board, and we will continue to update the plan as staff operating at the College in these new circumstances feedback their experience and ideas. All staff must adhere to this safety plan at all times.

Key to a safe environment is the need to continue with social distancing, be mindful of gatherings and maintain high cleaning and hygiene standards. We must all be prepared to adapt the way we work to ensure everyone's safety.

To further strengthen the awareness of COVID-19 risks and related safety measures we require all staff and managers to complete an online module prior to or shortly after their return to the College: <https://businesssafe.peninsula-online.com/ELearning/COVID-19Employees/index.html#/>

Working from Home

With restriction easing the University and College guidance now advises that in order to support the return of normal operations where possible staff should work from College whenever possible. However, managers should ensure that their area specific COVID risk assessments are completed, shared with staff and following diligently.

Heads of Departments will consult their staff on working arrangements, considering the needs of the college and the individual's circumstances, and will ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that every effort will be made to enable working from site where possible.

You must complete a risk assessment and a display screen equipment workstation checklist [here](#) to ensure that you are working safely at home, and

COVID 19 STAFF SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

must discuss any concerns, assistance or equipment needed with your Head of Department in the first instance. Any IT issues should be reported to it.support@wolfson.ox.ac.uk as usual.

If you need any items of furniture, fixtures and fittings (for example, chairs, desk lamps, foot stools), to assist you working from home, you can request these through the Home Bursar's Office home.bursar@wolfson.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 274100).

Some staff working remotely may need to come into College on occasions to undertake tasks that cannot be completed remotely (for example, retrieving a file or using specialist equipment for a particular task), and should make arrangements through their Head of Department.

Heads of Department will keep in contact with staff working from home to monitor and assist with their wellbeing and to make sure that they are kept informed of developments in the College.

Working in the College

Where possible your work should now be conducted in College, however you must comply with the following restrictions and activities, which have been put in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Attending College

Before coming into College you must ensure that you are well and not displaying any symptoms of COVID -19: please see the NHS guidance www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/. If you feel unwell, please stay at home and let your Head of Department know straight away. You must stay home until you are sure that you do not have any relevant symptoms, and until you have completed the mandatory self-isolation period. It is possible to be tested for COVID-19 if you display symptoms and this can be arranged by the College through your Head of Department or directly following the government guidance at www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested.

If you feel unwell whilst at work, please report this to your Head of Department straightaway and arrange to return home immediately, maintaining social distancing at all times. If you need to self-isolate, please follow the NHS guidance on self-isolating www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/what-to-do-if-you-or-someone-you-live-with-has-coronavirus-symptoms or arrange for a test as detailed above.

It is likely, particularly during winter, that many of us will display symptoms similar to COVID 19, as result of the usual seasonal colds, and it is important for the safety of all that staff stay home if experiencing any relevant symptoms, however mild.

Travelling to Work

Where possible you should walk, cycle or drive on your own, to avoid contact with other commuters and if public transport is used we encourage you to wear a face covering and follow the Government's guidelines www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers. We can provide facemasks on request, but we encourage you to make your own face

COVID 19 STAFF SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

covering and example of these can be found at www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52609777. You should continue to monitor the Government's advice as it may change over time.

Arrival and Departure Times

To aid social distancing, arrival and departure times may be staggered wherever possible.

Heads of Department's should encourage flexible working patterns with their staff to enable them to avoid peak travel times, and to limit contact with other commuters and reduce travel times.

Meetings and Meeting Rooms

You are encouraged to use remote working tools like the telephone, conference calling, or Teams or Zoom where possible to avoid meeting in person (guidance on all of these options is available from IT).

If you do need to meet in person, only the absolutely necessary participants should attend, 1m separation must be maintained, and the room must be well ventilated by opening windows or ensuring active mechanical system are switched on. You should meet outside if possible: outdoor meeting areas are arranged for this purpose. Meeting rooms will be set up with chairs and desks spaced out to ensure social distancing and each room will have a strict occupancy number, which can be checked with Events.

Reducing Movement

You should consider the best time to move around College to avoid others and the safest route to help with social distancing. Routes that use the outdoors and avoid touching doors and surfaces is preferable to indoor routes.

Hand Hygiene

Staff must wash their hands thoroughly on arrival at work, and on a regular basis throughout the day www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/. It is particularly important to wash or sanitize them again following any journey in the college or after touching any surfaces.

Handwashing facilities are available in all WCs and kitchens. All kitchens have blue paper towel rolls in place, and cloth towels and drying up cloths have been removed. Paper towels are considered to be safer than electric hand dryers, so these have now been disabled temporarily, and paper towels provided instead. Hand washing reminder signs have been placed in all WC's and on noticeboards throughout the College.

Hand sanitiser is located at the main entrances and in the following areas: the lodge; main hall entrance; servery entrance; café area; main kitchen, family courtyard areas, all offices; and all

COVID 19 STAFF SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

meeting and conference rooms. Hand sanitiser will be issued to all staff with limited access to the areas above, such as Housekeeping, Grounds, Nursery, and any other staff who feel it would be helpful to them; a map of sanitizer locations can be found [here](#) and policy guidance for Heads of Department can be found [here](#).

Cleaning

Cleaning products can be provided, including antibacterial sprays and wipes to wipe down equipment and surfaces, such as door handles, tools, workstations, key boards, telephones and other regularly touched surfaces. All staff must share the cleaning burden by wiping down surfaces in their own work places on a daily basis.

Lifts

Only use lifts if absolutely necessary, ideally with no more than one person.

Additional safety measures

Protective Screens

Acrylic screens have been fitted to the servery, the till, the café and the lodge. You should let your Head of Department know if you feel that an additional screen is required anywhere in the College.

Social Distancing Reminders

Social distancing signs will be displayed at all main entrances and on noticeboards, as well as in various areas such as meeting rooms, main hall, servery, café, library, etc.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Government guidance on the use of PPE is at www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/offices-and-contact-centres and suggests that PPE is unnecessary in most office-based work environments provided that social distancing can be maintained. However, PPE is available in the College if required, and will be made available for all staff where risk assessments suggest it might be helpful. Staff can request PPE at any time through their Head of Department.

Offices

Each office will be risk assessed and consultations undertaken with each office occupant to ensure that 1m social distancing can be maintained. Workstations will be moved apart or placed back-to-back if possible or screens fitted. Flexible working times can be used to reduce the number of people in an office at any one time. No hot-desking is allowed.

Avoiding Contact with Surfaces

Staff should avoid touching shared surfaces wherever possible. Doors will therefore be left open where possible (not fire doors, which must remain closed). This will also aid ventilation. You should avoid sharing pens or other work

COVID 19 STAFF SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

equipment and, if you do have to touch a shared surface (such as a light switch or photocopier button, you must sanitize your hands before and after. Cash should be avoided where possible and all payments made via a contactless card.

Main Hall, Café and Common Room.

Separate doors will be used for entrance and exit at serving times. Tables and chairs will be arranged to ensure social distancing and take away food is available from the servery and can be eaten in offices, work places or outside areas. The Common Room has reopened and all members are asked to minimize use and to spread out to maintain social distance.

Lunch and Breaks

Lunch and breaks will need to be staggered and/or taken in small groups. Social distancing rules must be observed at all times, and you should use outside areas for breaks whenever possible. Your Head of Department will discuss and agree with your appropriate break areas and routines.

Increased Ventilation

All doors, including the main entrance and exit doors, can be left open between 8am and 6pm, when possible and weather permitting, and provided that any increase in fire risk can be mitigated in other ways. Windows in main corridors and lodge/café areas will be opened between 8am and 6pm. Meeting and conference room windows will be opened on the tilt setting to allow ventilation at all times. Other windows controlled by individuals should be opened as much as possible but not to the detriment of the individual's comfort.

Minibus

The minibus service is operating with a COVID risk assessment in place. Hand sanitising is available and fac coverings are required whilst using the service.

COVID 19 STAFF SAFETY PLAN 2021-22

Contractors and Visitors

Contractors need to complete the new COVID-19 Contractor Operating Procedures – Minor Works paperwork at the Lodge before commencing work and must maintain social distancing at all times. Safety procedures must be sent to contractors prior to their visit and safety and hygiene arrangements must be explained to them on arrival. All visitors and Contractors must be booked in at the Lodge (disposable pen are available for use at the Lodge).

Deliveries and Collections

Where possible, deliveries should be non-contact and social distancing maintained at all times. If unloading or moving stock requires more than one person and social distancing cannot be maintained, face covers must be worn. Hand sanitiser will be available for delivery drivers to use.

Communication and Training

Signage

Signage and posters are in place in all areas to remind everyone of the social distancing requirement and additional safety measures necessary in specific areas.

Emergency Procedures

Social distancing should be maintained during any emergency or fire evacuation, unless it would be unsafe to do so. First aiders have PPE available and will wear it whenever attending to a first aid matter.

Work Procedures

Heads of Departments must complete a COVID 19 risk assessment for their department, ensure that they adapt their procedures to ensure safety, and conduct appropriate consultation and training with their staff. The H&S Manager and HR Department can advise and assist where necessary.