# NWRC COVID Guidance for students when attending NWRC and work placement

NWRC are continuing to work in tandem with DfE and the PHA to keep our students and staff safe.

This information is for all students whether attending class, an exam or when out on placement. The intent is not to prevent students from coming to class and attending work placement but to ensure that everyone understands their personal responsibility during the Pandemic. Our aim is that everyone respects and follows the current and evolving PHA guidance so we can return to a more normal learning environment.

**When coming to NWRC:**

* Do a lateral flow test every day before coming to college. If positive, even a fine line, stay at home.
* If you are unvaccinated and someone in the household is going for a PCR test or awaiting a PCR result, please stay at home until the result is known.
* If you are unvaccinated and a close colleague (contact) tests positive you need to follow the PHA guidance and self-isolate, test and retest.
* Wear a mask at all times when on campus, unless medically exempt to protect yourselves, your family, your fellow students and our staff.
* Keep outside class meetings online to prioritise face to face learning.
* Continue to collect free lateral flow tests from collection points available on all sites

What to do if you have tested positive for COVID 19

* Notify (by phone or email) your course co-ordinator as soon as possible and start your self-isolation period. Do not come onto campus if you are symptomatic.
* Notify your work place manager if you are due to attend work placement
* Your course co-ordinator will create an incident report on your behalf and someone from the COVID Team in NWRC will be in contact by telephone or email as soon as possible
* You must remain at home for the isolation period. You can exit isolation on day 7 if you have 2 negative LFT results at the end of day 5 and day 6, at least 24 hours apart and come to NWRC as normal. This is regardless of vaccination status.
* For Example:
	+ You have tested positive on 24th January, this is day 0
	+ Complete a lateral flow test at 11pm on 29th January and again at 11pm or later on 30th January
	+ If both of these test results are negative you can return to college/ work placement on 31st January
* If your LFT is positive you must remain in self isolation until you have 2 consecutive daily negative tests up to and including day 10. If you are still testing positive on day 10, you can end your self-isolation on day 11 providing you do not still have a temperature
* Click [here](https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-information-public/using-lateral-flow-testing-end-self-isolation) for the infographic from the PHA
* You should inform you course co-ordinator if there are any changes to your situation.

Close contacts of COVID 19

Those who are not fully vaccinated

If you are either unvaccinated, have had one dose only, or if it is less than 14 days since your second dose:

* you should **self-isolate immediately** for 10 days following last contact with the positive person
* you do not need to book a PCR test unless you develop symptoms

If you are not able to be vaccinated for a clinical reason, you should follow the guidance above.

Fully Vaccinated close contacts

If you are fully vaccinated (more than 14 days since you received the second dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine) or you have taken part in an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial, you do not need to take a PCR test.

You are advised to isolate and take a lateral flow device (LFD) test as soon as possible.

If this is negative you can stop isolating but should continue to take daily lateral flow tests until the tenth day after the last date of contact with the positive case.

The lateral flow should ideally be taken before you leave the house for the first time each day. It is important that you realise that even being vaccinated can mean that you do get Covid. For that reason, if you do start to circulate you behave responsibly, wear a face covering, strict hand hygiene and avoid being a close contact (distance yourself) at home or at school.

If any lateral flow test is positive (even a faint line), you should isolate immediately. You no longer need to book a PCR test.

If at any time you develop symptoms, you should isolate immediately and book a PCR even if the lateral flow test is negative. If you notice that another student or friend appears symptomatic, tired, flu like symptoms please ask them to go home, complete lateral flow tests daily and only return to campus when symptoms have subsided or they have negative lateral flow results x 2 days.

Even if you’re fully vaccinated, if you have been **identified as a close contact**, you are advised not to visit hospitals or care homes for 10 days and to minimise contact with those known to be at higher risk of severe illness if they contract COVID-19 for 10 days. In the College we would respectfully request that you maintain 2 metres and increase your own controls, visor, mask, hand washing, whilst avoiding social areas and offices.

Flow chart of guidance

If you have tested positive for COVID 19

If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID 19