

From: [President TU Dublin](#)
To: [TU Dublin All Staff](#)
Subject: Message from the President
Date: 17 November 2021 17:35:52
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Colleagues,

Following on from the Government announcement yesterday of changes in Covid regulation and management, I wanted to email you to define the approach that will be adopted within TU Dublin through to the end of this calendar year, subject to any further Government announcements involving changes in the national guidelines as they apply to the higher education sector.

As you will already have noted, the Government has confirmed the fact that Higher Education is an essential service and has underlined the necessity of maintaining the current mode of delivery and engagement with our students. The announcement also included the fact that we should look to reinforce and maintain high hygiene standards, minimise contacts as far as possible and to limit return to the workplace to activities that are necessary.

For TU Dublin, we will continue to:

- Maintain high vigilance regarding mitigating measures such as mask wearing and hand/respiratory hygiene.
- Ensure that on campus teaching and research activity continues unchanged.
- Ensure that programme delivery continues as timetabled.
- Provide student and staff facing supports and services, including continued opening and operation of campus facilities, in line with Covid requirements.
- Enable and support hybrid working, with attendance in the workplace for necessary activities. Line managers will be tasked to review and confirm necessary workplace activities over the coming week, with details to be confirmed through the relevant UET member.
- Plan for assessments in January, both face to face and using on-line/alternative modes, as agreed by the Academic Council on the 6th October 2021. However, contingency plans will need to be developed should face to face assessments be limited or be unable to be held in January due to further restrictions.
- Ensure that TU Dublin Sports activities continue to run as planned, in full compliance with the relevant Covid guidelines in force at any given time.

In parallel with the above, we will:

- Pause the progressive return to the workplace that had been initiated and support working from home where on campus presence is not required.
- Limit attendance at physical meetings to those that are deemed necessary. When attending meetings, specific aspects such as ventilation, mask wearing when not speaking and very limited numbers (<15 is suggested) should be taken into account.
- Not physically attend externally hosted events and meetings, unless deemed essential to the University strategic plan, with immediate effect.
- Move all TU Dublin hosted events on-line as soon as possible, to be fully in effect from Saturday 20th Nov at the latest.

In the broader context of the Government announcement, I would draw particular attention to the advice that close contacts within a household, who are fully vaccinated and show no symptoms, should restrict their movements until they have had three negative antigen test results within a five day period. Please note that this relates to “households” not simply family units and may be of significance to students and staff who share accommodation.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the significant effort and contribution that you have all made, both individually and collectively, on an on-going basis to ensure that TU Dublin continues to deliver and support all within our community. Please consistently follow the government, public health and university guidelines so that we can all manage the continuing implications of living and working with Covid into the future.

Best regards,

David.

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