

From: [Update City](#)
To: [Update City](#)
Subject: COVID-19 - Public health advisory from Department of Health
Date: Wednesday 13 January 2021 14:21:47

Dear Students,

As you know, Ireland is experiencing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases. Right now, we all need to **stay at home** and act as if we have COVID-19. New Level 5 restrictions are now in place - you can see the [measures in place here](#).

Latest updates to COVID-19 Testing and Tracing

- The HSE will not be referring close contacts for a test. This is so that people who are symptomatic can be prioritised and receive a test as quickly as possible.
- Anyone who receives notification by SMS that they are a close contact **must restrict their movements for 14 days**. If you develop symptoms, you should call [your Student Health Centre](#), your GP or GP Out of Hours service and arrange a test.
- **If you are required to self-isolate but cannot do so in your current accommodation, please note that the HSE has put in place self-isolation facilities in City West** – [see further details here](#)
- The text message that is sent to close contacts will now advise every close contact that they should restrict their movements and if they show symptoms they should immediately contact their GP to arrange a test. Close contacts can also access advice for them on this link <https://hse.ie/cvdcc> This temporary measure is being implemented in consultation with GPs, to ensure those who have symptoms are tested as quickly as possible and that we can continue to try to reduce the spread of the virus.

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Since 29th December, the HSE has been giving the vaccine to people in the highest priority groups – frontline healthcare workers, and people living in long-term care facilities who are aged 65 or over.

The COVID-19 vaccine will offer protection from COVID-19 and should also protect you from the serious complications of COVID-19. The aim in offering the vaccine to the population is to protect people and reduce the illness and deaths caused by this virus.

We encourage you to read about the COVID-19 vaccine and to get their information from a factual, trusted source – www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine is a good place to start, and you can find COVID-19 vaccine information materials at www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials

Face coverings

[This video](#) demonstrates the correct way to wear a face covering. Face coverings are advised where social distancing is not possible, such as in crowded outdoor areas, indoor communal workplaces and in shops and on public transport, as well as on campus when that is permitted once current restrictions are lifted. Find out more:

www.gov.ie/en/publication/aac74c-guidance-on-safe-use-of-face-coverings/#face-coverings #COVID19

Public Health Information

As always, for the most up to date information and advice on Coronavirus, please go to:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/> and

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/>. Clinical and professional guidance relating to COVID-19 is available on www.hpsc.ie where you'll find up to date guidance for healthcare settings and non-clinical settings.

TU Dublin updates

TU Dublin will continue to update information for staff and students on the website at www.tudublin.ie/covid19 as well as by circulating emails to all students.