

**From:** [TU Dublin Update](#)  
**To:** [TU Dublin Update](#)  
**Subject:** Return to campus update  
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Dear Colleagues,

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and provide a quick update about our sector's response to COVID-19.

Minister Simon Harris has confirmed Higher Education provision remains an essential service, and there are no changes to Public Health guidelines for the sector. As with Semester 1, the University will continue on-campus classes from Monday, 24 January. At the same time, we will keep a close eye on national public health advice and promptly communicate any changes to students and staff.

In December, the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science announced discrete funding for all third-level institutions to stimulate the use of antigen testing by students. This current funding will provide once-off antigen test kits to students. A procurement process led by Trinity College Dublin is underway, with a framework expected to be in place in February. The sector has also raised the matter of providing funding for FFP2/N95 masks with Minister Harris.

Finally, please make sure to stay informed as to the most current HSE advice as it continues to change. If you're feeling unwell, you may avail of COVID-19 leave with a positive antigen test, following the HSE advice on what to do if you get a [positive PCR result](#) or a [positive antigen test](#). The advice for close contacts also varies depending on your situation, so please check the [HSE website](#) for the most up to date details. **Irrespective, if you're experiencing any cold or flu-like symptoms, the HSE advice is to remain at home, even if you have completed your COVID-19 vaccinations, had a booster, or had a positive PCR test result in the past.**

As we come up to marking two years of managing our response to COVID-19, I want to thank you all most sincerely for your continued support and cooperation in keeping our University community safe. In order for us to maintain our success in managing COVID-19 within the university, please continue to follow the guidance on risk mitigation, particularly hand hygiene, mask wearing, and ventilation.

Best regards,

Professor David FitzPatrick  
President of TU Dublin