



For the future you want

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advice

About the virus

COVID-19 (Coronavirus 2019) is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It is caused by a virus called coronavirus.

The current risk of coronavirus in the UK is moderate. The College is committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. It is important that everyone takes measures to protect themselves and those around them from the virus. Please read our FAQs about the coronavirus below.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the symptoms?

The following symptoms may develop in the 14 days after possible exposure to COVID-19 infection:

- cough
- difficulty in breathing
- fever

Generally, these infections can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

These symptoms do not necessarily mean you have the illness. The symptoms are similar to other illnesses that are much more common, such as cold and flu. For more information on the symptoms see [the NHS website](#).

If you are worried about your symptoms or those of a child or colleague, please call your GP or NHS24 (111). Do not go directly to your GP or other healthcare environment.

How can I protect myself and others against COVID-19?

[NHS Scotland](#) recommends using good hand, respiratory and personal hygiene. Coughing and sneezing should be into tissues that are promptly disposed of in bins. Hands should be washed more regularly than usual with soap and water or using an alcohol hand rub even if hands are visibly clean. You should also keep up-to-date with the [latest travel advice](#) regarding affected areas. If you visit or return from affected areas, it is important you follow the guidance provided.

What should I do if I think I may have the virus?

If you are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus and have recently travelled to an at-risk area ([see up-to-date information on travel guidance](#)) you should seek medical advice by

calling your GP or the free NHS 111 telephone helpline. Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital or come into College.

It is important that you are aware of the at-risk areas as these are continually being updated. If you have recently travelled abroad, please check the latest advice and guidance provided by the [government](#).

What should I do if I think someone in my class might have coronavirus?

If someone in your class is showing symptoms of coronavirus, please make your lecturer aware as soon as possible. Your lecturer will then act on the guidance provided by health professionals. The College will assess the situation and take the necessary steps to keep everyone safe and well. It is important that we prioritise the health and safety of all of our students and staff. If there is a suspected case in your class, please listen to the advice of your lecturer and respect the privacy of everyone involved – please don't record or post video footage of the situation online.

How do I self-isolate if I'm asked to?

If there's a chance you could have coronavirus, you may be asked to stay away from other people (self-isolate).

This means you should:

- stay at home
- not go to work, school, college or public places
- not use public transport or taxis
- ask friends, family members or delivery services to do errands for you
- try to avoid visitors to your home – it's OK for friends, family or delivery drivers to drop off food

You may need to do this for up to 14 days to help reduce the possible spread of infection.

[Read more coronavirus self-isolation advice.](#)

I've been told to self-isolate, will this affect my attendance record and how should I let the College know that I won't be attending classes?

The most important thing is to keep you and others safe so please don't worry about being absent from College if it is necessary. If you are advised to self-isolate, please contact your lecturer or LDT in the first instance to update them on your situation. They will be able to advise on your attendance record, whether you are able to study from home and will put plans in place to ensure you can catch-up when you're able to return to College.

Will my bursary be affected if I'm told to self-isolate?

If you have been instructed to self-isolate, your bursary payments will not be affected as long as you inform the College that you are in self-isolation as soon as you are able to. If you would like to speak to someone about your funding concerns, please contact studentfunding@edinburghcollege.ac.uk.

What happens if my lecturer is in self-isolation? Will my classes be affected?

If an individual lecturer is told to self-isolate, the College will make every effort to ensure provision is in place to enable classes to continue. We will keep classes informed of any lecturers who are unable to attend College.

What happens if I'm instructed to self-isolate when I'm due to have an exam/assessment?

Don't worry. If you are told to self-isolate and have an exam or assessment scheduled during the self-isolation period, contact your lecturer or LDT to let them know and they will make alternative arrangements.

I've heard people talking about someone at the College having suspected/confirmed coronavirus, should I be worried?

No. There are currently no suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus among Edinburgh College students and/or staff.

What is Edinburgh College doing to plan and keep people informed about the current coronavirus outbreak?

Edinburgh College is in regular contact with health agencies to ensure we are providing the most suitable, accessible and up-to-date advice to our staff and students. We will continue to share any information we receive and are monitoring the situation closely. We have plans in place to respond quickly, as necessary, if the situation changes.

How do I keep up-to-date with the latest information on COVID-19?

The College will update this page regularly. However, this is a quickly evolving situation so please also keep yourself as informed as possible by checking the latest information from [the NHS](#), as well as emails from the College, and the [College's](#) (and [ECSA's](#)) social media channels.

Contact the Coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline

If you do not have symptoms and are looking for general information, a free helpline has been set up on 0800 028 2816.

The helpline is open:

Monday to Friday, 8.00am to 10.00pm
Saturday and Sunday, 9.00am to 5.00pm

Please note: This is an evolving situation and the above advice may be subject to change. If you have any concerns regarding COVID-19 in relation to Edinburgh College please don't hesitate to get in touch with [the College](#) or [ECSA](#).