Dear colleagues,

This email contains important Covid-19 updates. Please take the time to read it carefully.

Latest decisions and updates from Durham University

- Reporting cases of Covid-19 or self-isolation
- Vice-Chancellor video and Town Hall meetings
- The County Durham Together Awards

Reporting cases of Covid-19 or self-isolation

If you have symptoms of Covid-19, you must:

- self-isolate
- book a Covid-19 test
- inform your manager.

If you have a positive test or symptoms, your manager will discuss with you whether you have been in close contact with any colleagues two days before your symptoms started or, if you don’t know when your symptoms started, within the last 10 days.

Close contact means you’ve been within 2 metres of someone else for 15 minutes or more, or have had face-to-face contact (within one metre) for 1 minute.

If your manager asks you to self-isolate due to having been in close contact with someone who has symptoms, you must do so.

More information relating to symptoms, testing and self-isolation is available in our online FAQs

If you have concerns that you are clinically vulnerable or in a higher risk group, or are anxious about anything else at this difficult time, please speak to your manager or seek support via the Employee Assistance Programme.

Vice-Chancellor video and Town Hall meetings

The latest of the weekly videos from the Vice-Chancellor is available for all staff to view online.

The next Town Hall meeting for all staff, led by members of the University Executive, will take place on Monday 19 October, 10am-11am. To book your place or to view the dates of future Town Halls, please visit the dedicated web page. If you would like to submit a question in advance, please complete the online form.

The County Durham Together Awards
We know that throughout the pandemic, many of our colleagues and students have gone to extraordinary lengths to support others. You’ve shared your inspirational stories of volunteering to tutor schoolchildren online and delivering virtual exercise classes, raising money for worthy causes and making much-needed PPE for key workers.

The County Durham Together Awards, launched by Durham County Council and The Northern Echo, will recognise those who have gone above and beyond during the coronavirus pandemic.

If you’d like to find out more or nominate someone you know, visit our website for more information.

**Conclusion**

We’re asking our entire community to come together to follow Covid-19 regulations to keep yourself and each other safe.

We’re doing all that we can to protect everyone in our community, including providing Covid-secure environments for teaching and learning and implementing health and safety measures in Colleges and across campus.

In addition, Colleagues in Colleges are going to great lengths to ensure the additional level of coordination and operations to support those who have tested positive for coronavirus or are self-isolating. We would like to thank you all for your continued dedication and support.

Best wishes,

**Claire O’Malley**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Global)

All Covid-19 communications issued to students are available on our [website](#).