



13 January 2020

COVID-19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee

Update report: Resilience, Recovery and Renewal at Nottinghamshire's Universities

December Student Travel Window

1. The Government's 'student travel window' (December 3-9) allowed the vast majority of students who wanted to travel for the winter break to do so. Before travelling both universities offered all students either a Lateral Flow Device or an Asymptomatic Test to help break the possible chain of transmission of COVID-19.
2. Over the travel window testing teams carried out over 20,000 tests, with extremely low positivity rates amongst the student community following strong adherence to regulations during the period of enhanced restrictions. The universities supported a very small number of students whose test was positive to complete their isolation before travelling.
3. In partnership with local public health teams, the two universities have invested significantly to develop in-house asymptomatic testing for staff and students. UoN hosted the NHS audit team before the winter break which, if successful, could lead to formal accreditation of the testing as part of the government framework. This would remove the need for those testing positive to take an additional confirmatory Pillar Two test, and would feed directly into the national NHS Test and Trace process.

Student Returns in January

4. Both ahead of the new year and following the implementation of the latest lockdown measures, the Government provided updated guidance on Term Two. This continues to stress that education remains a priority activity and that teaching can be carried out safely in Covid-secure environments.
5. The steps we took in summer 2020 to make our campuses Covid-secure enable us to continue with some in-person teaching activities. However, there is a need for new restrictions because of the transmissibility of the new strain of the virus and as such the movement of people into and across the country must be reduced.
6. In line with national guidance, teaching will be delivered online until at least mid-February for all subjects except those outlined in the revised [guidance for returning students issued last week](#): Medicine & Dentistry; Health & Social Care including Nursing & Midwifery; Physiotherapy and Veterinary Science; Education including initial teacher training; and Social Work. We have advised students on all other courses to remain where they are and start the term online.
7. The government guidance also recognises that some students have remained on campus during the break and for others there may be exceptional circumstances which mean they need to return before the start of their in-person teaching – for example because they are unable to study from

home, need to sit their online exams on campus, do not have alternative accommodation or for health reasons.

8. We recognise the considerable challenge of teaching and supporting students both on and off campus, and would like to thank our staff, who have made huge efforts to deliver high quality and engaging teaching both digitally and face to face in 2020, and will continue to do so.
9. All students returning to Nottinghamshire will be offered either an asymptomatic or a lateral flow test and asked to minimise social contact until they have the result. The Government has also advised that students should get tested using facilities in their home towns and cities ahead of returning.
10. Students and staff who need to be on campus can access asymptomatic (UoN) or Lateral Flow (NTU) Covid-19 testing through the University's testing service. Testing is, of course, voluntary but we hope that the service will offer reassurance at this time and keep our community safe. There are no limits on the number of asymptomatic tests any individual can take and we recommend those who are on campus regularly should consider taking a test weekly until vaccines are widely deployed.
11. The universities will continue to work with Nottinghamshire Police to ensure any student who is irresponsible faces both legal penalties and disciplinary action where appropriate. In the most serious cases, students will be fast-tracked to the highest levels of the disciplinary process where suspension and exclusion are potential outcomes.

Students' Contribution to Nottinghamshire's Communities

12. As we have seen across many communities during this crisis, our students have demonstrated remarkable resilience and generosity, with many playing an active role supporting others through the pandemic. Alongside individual actions, student groups including sports teams, faith groups, community networks, course-based networks and interest groups have raised funds, organised activities and given their direct support to people across Nottinghamshire.
13. These efforts and achievements have included:
 - a. [UoN First Responders](#) are a student-run first-aid service supporting ambulance calls in the community. Last term they supported 243 allocated patients, including: 49 breathing problems, 57 medical emergencies, 20 unconscious, 12 falls and trauma, 8 cardiac arrests and 46 chest pains. In 67% of situations the First Responder arrived before the ambulance.
 - b. Hai Dinh Ngo, a NTU student, used his [language skills](#) to help families quarantining in Vietnam; [NTU's fashion students made scrubs](#) for those on the front line and students from [NTU's law school](#) offered free virtual legal advice to all the Nottinghamshire community.
 - c. The UoN [PhabSoc student group](#) usually takes children and young adults with disabilities (members) on day trips and events which they may otherwise not be able to experience. They have instead run these virtually, using music to enhance the lives of their members by getting them to sing/dance for the day.
 - d. Many students, individually and as part of groups, have supported the delivery of food parcels to those isolating or shielding.