



Living in College: a guide for students

Updated: 6 November 2020

Introduction

The guidelines below are subject to change in accordance with government advice. We will update these guidelines when required and will keep you informed of any changes via email and other appropriate communications channels.

Accommodation and households

What constitutes a household?

In a College context, a household is defined as those people with whom you share a bathroom, kitchen or toilet facilities.

Do I have to social distance/wear a face mask within my household?

Your household is your social bubble. While you are not required to wear a face mask in your household, we do encourage all students to maintain social distancing, wash their hands regularly, clean surfaces after use and take other sensible precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, it's important to remember that on occasion, you will have to pass through other households in order to move around College. Wearing a face mask in all corridors is a courtesy and good practice.

Do I have to clean my own room and shared facilities?

- Students are expected to clean their own rooms
- En-suite bathrooms will be checked and cleaned once a fortnight
- Kitchens will be cleaned five days a week
- Communal bathrooms and toilets will be cleaned seven days a week
- Hand contact areas in College will be cleaned three times a day, seven days a week
- All communal and shared spaces in the Colleges houses will be cleaned five days a week

Public spaces in College

Do I have to social distance/wear a face mask around College?

When moving around the public spaces in College, please wear a face mask unless you are exempt from doing so. Public spaces include: the Porters' Lodge, the Dome, corridors (including those in accommodation areas) and walkways.

You do not have to wear a face mask in the College gardens or in the marquees but please remember to maintain social distancing at all times.



Is hand sanitiser available in College?

You are encouraged to use hand sanitiser, and there are contactless sanitiser dispensers at the entrances to main buildings. However, hand sanitiser is not a replacement for thorough and regular handwashing.

Can I move around College freely?

You may move around College freely but please follow the routes and movement advice signposted around College.

What communal spaces can I use in College?

- Meeting up with friends from other households within College**

From 5 November, you will individually be allowed to meet up with one person from another household outside – provided you adhere to social distancing guidelines. This means you can continue to socialise with a friend in the College gardens and in the marquees. Unfortunately, this means you will no longer be able to meet friends from other College households in the communal space in the bar or in the Dome.

- Socialising with members of your College household**

You can continue to socialise with your housemates in your accommodation areas. You can also continue to meet them in the communal space in the bar, the Dome (during Coffee Shop opening hours), the marquees and the College gardens.

Is the MCR open?

In order to comply with government rules, the MCR will be closed from Thursday 5 November.

I am a Murray Edwards student but I live in private accommodation, can I still visit College after 5 November?

If you live in private accommodation, you can still visit the College and make use of the facilities, including booking a study space in the library and using the Long Room, and getting take-away meals from the Dome. You are also individually allowed to meet up with one person from another household in the College gardens or the marquees – provided you adhere to social distancing guidelines.

[**University card**](#)

Do I have to keep my University card on me at all times?

Yes. All students should carry their University card with them at all times. Your card does not need to be on display (i.e. you do not need to wear it on a lanyard) but you should be prepared to show it on request when entering College(s), Faculties, Departments, Libraries or other University buildings.



Catering

Is the Dome open?

The Dome will continue to offer a takeaway service for breakfast, lunch and dinner (times on the [College website](#)).

Supervisions/teaching

Where are in-person supervisions taking place this year?

Only 1:1 meetings are taking place in Fellows' offices unless the particular office has been risk assessed to allow for more visitors. Other in-person supervisions are taking place in College meeting rooms and you may be asked by your DoS to attend supervisions in approved spaces at other Colleges.

Do I have to wear a face mask to in-person supervisions?

In line with the revised University guidance, the College is recommending that for indoor meetings or teaching sessions longer than 15 minutes, face masks should be worn even if observing an appropriate social distance (2m) is possible. The updated advice can be found on the University's [Stay Safe Cambridge Uni campaign pages](#).

What is the guidance around arriving for and leaving in-person supervisions?

Please arrive at your supervision no more than five minutes before the start time. This is to help prevent crowding or queues in public areas. At the end of your supervision, you should leave promptly – please avoid gathering outside the supervision room.

Will rooms be cleaned in between in-person supervisions?

Yes. Rooms will be ventilated and sanitised before and after each supervision. When the weather outside gets cold, please remember to wear appropriate clothing so that you are a comfortable temperature during your supervision.

Am I allowed to share equipment and resources with others in my in-person supervision?

No. Please remember to bring all the items required for your supervision; equipment and resources should not be shared.

What happens if I start to feel unwell during my in-person supervision?

If you have a temperature or are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms before your supervision, please do not attend. Make sure to let your supervisor know as soon as possible. If you start to feel unwell in the supervision, you should leave immediately, return to your room and follow the College's guidance on reporting your symptoms.



Visitors

Can friends from other households in College visit me in my room?

From Thursday 5 November, you will no longer be able to socialise across households within College accommodation. We know this will come as a real disappointment to you but in order to adhere to the rules of the national lockdown, the College cannot permit mixing between households indoors.

Can friends from other Colleges visit me in my room?

We had hoped by now we would be in a position to allow you to have friends and partners from other Colleges into your rooms. We know how much this would mean to you. However, the new national lockdown rules do not permit individuals from two separate households to socialise indoors.

Can I socialise with friends from other households (including from other Colleges) anywhere in College?

You can individually continue to host **one visitor** from another College in the College gardens and in the marquees. As before, all guests must adhere to our College guidelines (including social distancing and wearing a face mask in the public areas) and your visitors are not allowed in the College bar or in the Dome. All guests must use the Visitor QR code to sign in (at any of the College entrances) or the paper log (at the Porters' Lodge). It's really important visitors adhere to these rules so that we know who is in College and fulfil our responsibility to track and trace.

Can I have guests from outside Cambridge visit me in College?

In accordance with government guidelines, the College is not allowing visitors from outside Cambridge to visit students in their rooms or stay overnight.

Can I visit friends or family outside Cambridge?

In accordance with government guidelines, you should not move back and forward between your permanent home and your student accommodation during Term. You should only return home at the end of Term. If you do have to return home during Term, please discuss this with your Tutor in advance.

Testing

Can I get tested for COVID-19 if I don't have any symptoms?

Yes. The University is offering undergraduate and postgraduate students living in College accommodation a weekly COVID-19 test, even if they show no symptoms. The test will be self-administered using a swab to take a sample from your nose and throat. Samples will be pooled by household enabling the University to reduce the number of samples analysed and make the programme manageable using limited testing capacity.

If any sample from a household confirms a positive test result, each member of that household will then be required to take a COVID-19 test.

For further details, please visit the [#StaySafeCambridgeUni webpages](#).



Do I have to take part in the asymptomatic testing programme?

If you are a student living in College accommodation, we strongly recommend you take part in the asymptomatic testing programme. This is because it is possible for people to spread the virus and infect others even if they are unaware they have it themselves. By being tested regularly, you will help keep our community as safe as possible. For further details, please visit the [#StaySafeCambridgeUni webpages](#).

Feeling unwell

What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Cough
- A loss or a change of your usual sense of smell/taste

If you develop one or more of these symptoms, you and all other members of your household must self-isolate in accordance with [NHS guidance](#).

You must email or call the Porters' Lodge if you believe you have symptoms of COVID-19 – **do not go along in person**.

You should then arrange a test immediately by:

- Calling Addenbrooke's Hospital on 01223 216 767 (08:30-16:30 Monday to Thursday), stating that you wish to be tested as part of the University of Cambridge's testing programme. If you develop symptoms out of hours, please request a test using the [NHS website](#).
- Inform your Tutor and the Porters' Lodge.
- Self-isolate until you receive further instructions from Addenbrooke's Hospital.

The University will also offer a test even if you have only flu-like symptoms such as a sore throat or muscle aches. If your symptoms only include a sore throat or muscle aches, other members of your household do not need to self-isolate unless you subsequently test positive. You can find more information on testing on the [#StaySafeCambridgeUni webpages](#).

What happens if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive, you will be called by Addenbrooke's Hospital and you must self-isolate in your accommodation for 10 days from the date upon which you first experienced symptoms. Everyone in your household group will be required to self-isolate for 14 days from that same date.

If you test positive, the College and your self-isolation supporters will offer you support during your self-isolation period. Please refer to the College's 'Key Information for students in self-isolation' document for further information.



Please also ensure that you are familiar with [government advice on when to self-isolate or household isolate.](#)

Can I catch COVID-19 twice?

If you get symptoms of COVID-19 again, you must self-isolate immediately and get a test.

You should also self-isolate again if someone in your household develops symptoms.

You must self-isolate again even if you have tested positive for COVID-19 before. You probably have some immunity to coronavirus but it is not clear how long it lasts, and there is no guarantee that you will not contract COVID-19 again.

Behaviour outside College

Do I have to adhere to these guidelines outside of College?

These guidelines are specific to Murray Edwards College. However, many of the principles and requirements will be similar elsewhere within the University. All students are expected to adhere to the guidelines or rules outlined by individual Colleges, and Faculties and Departments while they are in their grounds or buildings.

Summary

The guidelines in place are there to protect all of us and **we expect you to adhere to them**; breaching or violating these guidelines has the potential to cause great harm to others and put the student experience at risk. If the College has multiple households in self-isolation at any one time or if there is a local or national resurgence of COVID-19, we will have to put stricter measures in place in order to protect each other and the wider community.

It is up to each of us to create the community in which we want to live. With that in mind, we have been working hard (with the JCR and MCR) to provide you with imaginative, compassionate, realistic, and risk-minimised options for staying socially connected and intellectually stimulated throughout the academic year. This is a learning curve for all of us and we will continue to adapt as circumstances change throughout the coming months.