

Strategic COVID Response Framework

This is an over-arching strategic framework to guide decision-making. Areas of the University business may operate differentially across all tiers, depending on the specific nature of the circumstances. The Tier position will be reached based on multiple features of the situation descriptions arising (as agreed by “decision authorities” column), guided at all times by Public Health England advice. CCRG: Covid Cases Response Group, COG: Covid Oversight Group

DfE Tier	Situation Description: likely features	Education & Student Experience	Research	Operations	Decision Authorities
Tier 1 (default)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National alert L3 or L4 Local social gathering restrictions and some closures in place Low number of confirmed cases in University Small number of outbreak/cluster confirmed cases in University Low number of students self-isolating 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blended education delivery in place, at default discipline-specific timetabled hours In-person, 121 support permitted and facilitated Full academic infrastructure in place 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved research activities in place subject to local risk assessment and prioritisation In-person supervisory meetings for campus-based PGR permitted 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus operates at full COVID-secure capacity Students/staff subject to safety training to attend campus All accommodation blocks at least partially open Wellbeing measures implemented for staff and students 	<p>Operational management and monitoring by CCRG</p> <p>CCRG recommends to COG for approval if any areas of University need to move to Tier 2</p>
Tier 2 (fallback)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National alert L4 Local social gathering, significant closure and internal travel restrictions in places Medium confirmed cases in University Moderate level of outbreak/cluster confirmed cases in University Medium level of students self-isolating 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-person education delivery reduced, laboratory and practical teaching prioritised, and regular touch points in the semester, face-to-face, on campus In-person 121 support only by exception Full academic infrastructure in place 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved research activities in place subject to local risk assessment and prioritisation In-person supervisory meetings for campus-based PGR by exception 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus operates at reduced capacity due to lower people numbers on campus Opening of catering outlets reviewed Some accommodation blocks may be closed in a cluster lockdown Additional wellbeing measures implemented for staff and students 	<p>Operational management and monitoring by CCRG</p> <p>COG approves individual moves to Tier 2 based on CCRG recommendation</p> <p>COG recommends whole University move to Tier 2 to Executive Board for approval</p>
Tier 3 (strict)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National alert L4 or L5 Local lockdown (including above) and restricting travel outside area in place High level of confirmed cases in University High number of outbreak/cluster confirmed cases in University High level of students self-isolating <p>MAJOR INCIDENT CALLED</p>	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All education delivery moves 100% online, except Medicine and Allied Health In-person 121 support only for 'in crisis' cases Social study venues closed Library services reduced to digital only 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved research activities in place subject to local risk assessment and prioritisation No PGR in-person supervisory meetings except in exceptional cases 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus operates at significantly reduced capacity Most/all catering outlets closed Most/all gyms and sport facilities closed Further accommodation blocks may be closed in a cluster lockdown Further wellbeing measures implemented for staff and students 	<p>Operational management and monitoring by CCRG</p> <p>Based on CCRG recommendations COG recommends whole University move to Tier 3 to Executive Board for approval</p>
Tier 4 (last resort)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National alert L5 Local and national lockdown in place Very high levels of confirmed cases in University Very high level of outbreak/cluster confirmed cases in University Very high level of students self-isolating <p>MAJOR INCIDENT CALLED</p>	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All education delivery moves 100% online No in-person 121 support Academic infrastructure closed 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential research continues Other high priority research continues by exception No PGR in-person supervisory meetings 	<p>Key features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campus is closed except for essential operations Students remaining in accommodation would need support Wellbeing measures implemented for staff and students as for T3 	<p>Operational management and monitoring by CCRG</p> <p>Based on CCRG recommendations COG recommends whole University move to Tier 4 to Executive Board for approval</p>