

COVID-19 Coronavirus Statement

Orbital South College Group has been actively working to ensure the safety of students, staff, and guests for the commencement of learning on-site at our College campuses. The College Group regularly monitors the COVID-19 guidance as the Government and Association of Colleges update it, along with guidelines from the HSE and Public Health England (PHE).

Each department within the College completes a termly Generic Risk Assessment, which considers the risk of exposure to CoVid-19 under COSHH Regulations 2002 (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health). Additional consideration and adjustments are undertaken for:

- classroom design and layouts to ensure social distancing of 1 metre plus is kept between students where practicable, as recommended by Public Health England (PHE)
- ensuring hygiene and handwashing rules are followed by staff & students
- reviews of shared work spaces and machinery, taking steps to review work schedules to allow students to undertake other tasks where possible
- using signs and tape to define areas within the classrooms/workshops
- use of shared equipment and making provision for cleaning regimes in between use
- cleaning regimes for reusable PPE
- regulating entry and exit to classrooms/workshops to reduce risk of groups forming

The College is working closely with its cleaning providers to ensure cleaning staff continue to use best practices while cleaning surfaces in common high use areas in all buildings.

The college is working closely with our catering companies to ensure best food hygiene practices are consistently maintained at all of our sites.

As staff and students return, across our sites:

- we encourage digital transfer of material where possible e.g. use of e-forms email Office Teams
- cleaning and premises staff are checking hand sanitisers stations kept in communal areas throughout the day to ensure they are kept fully stocked
- washing facilities are also subject to frequent checks throughout the day
- departmental and student responsibilities posters to be displayed all across the college
- students will be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of social distancing both in the college and outside of it
- keeping teams together (cohorting) to reduce contact with others and keeping teams as small as possible

- sneeze screens are placed at points of regular interaction
- wipes and cleaners are provided in every classroom and workshop
- employees are provided with appropriate information, training and instruction to enable them to identify and deal with the risk involved in the work that they undertake and what they should be doing to control the risk

In addition, we are asking our college community to follow these instructions:

- Do not leave home if you or anyone in their household has symptoms.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it away ***“Catch it, Bin it, Kill it”***.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Minimize direct contact by keeping the recommended “social distance” of minimally three to six feet from others.
- To protect others, students and other members of our college community should limit contact with elderly family members and friends, or those who might be at-risk due to other health issues.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.