

LGA Webinar, 24 September 2020

The reopening of universities: supporting councils with the implications for local areas

Manchester COVID Prevention and Response – a partnership approach to the reopening of Universities

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Manchester Universities

Approx. 74,000 University students

Universities – real asset to Manchester

University of Manchester - local COVID modelling work

Existing good working relationships between

Universities and local public health team

(health protection issues, sexual health,
suicide prevention work)

- University of Manchester (UoM)
- Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)
- Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM)
- Other smaller University sites

Planning Work – On Campus and Off Campus

- Meetings with Universities during August/early Sept to go through COVID prevention and response plans
 - Managing outbreaks and contact tracing technical documents in place
 - Joint action plan in place
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- Multiagency Student Partnership Meeting (off campus focus)
 - Meetings between local councillors, council officers, Universities, Manchester Student Homes and Greater Manchester Police
 - Greater Manchester Comms & Return to Universities meetings (Bolton, Salford, Manchester, Trafford)

Planning Work – On Campus and Off Campus

Testing

- Local Testing Site - Denmark Road Leisure Centre, Hulme
- Mobile Testing Units available for mass testing in large outbreak situations

Additional support

- Quarantine for international students
- Food to support self isolation

Understanding local restrictions

- COVID restrictions may be different from where students have come from

PARTY LIKE YOU JUST DON'T CARE



But the thing is, you should care. Because if you go to a party or try to organise one, you could be fined, lose your place at university or worse still, it could affect your career prospects.

Manchester has enhanced COVID-19 restrictions

Manchester, along with other Greater Manchester authorities, is currently subject to extra Government restrictions, which might be stricter than they are where you're moving from.

In Manchester

- » You must not meet or socialise in groups of more than six people in any setting, unless you all live together*
- » You must not meet in other people's homes or gardens

- » You must not ask people round to your house or garden, so no house or garden parties with people you don't live with
- » Try not to share a vehicle with those outside of your household*

***What does 'household' mean?**

A household means the people you live with. For students this is anyone you share a bathroom and/or a kitchen with, whether this is in halls of residence, a flat or a shared house. This may be more than six people.

Risks for household and community transmission

- high number of students to manage on campus
- high volume of people in student areas (UoM, MMU and RNCM sites all on Oxford Road)
- Student accommodation - high rise accommodation or houses of multiple occupation = higher risk
- Risk of test and trace contact tracing work being impacted on by potential fines from restrictions (students who have attended a house party reluctant to share details of their contacts in case they receive fines)

On campus work

COVID mitigating measures in place:

- Welcome week - virtual events only
- Partnership agreement between Universities and students includes COVID secure working
- Health and Safety emails to staff and students
- Up to date student details for messaging and urgent contact in case of outbreak
- Joint statement to students from Vice Chancellors of both large Unis
- Student Intention Surveys - who will be doing online or on campus lectures
- Blended model of virtual and on campus teaching (25-30 students in study groups rather than 300+)
- Attendance and engagement monitoring - use of Safezone app
- Managing arrivals into student halls of residence in COVID secure way

Off campus work - students in neighbourhoods

Joint work between Universities, public health team, community and neighbourhoods teams, environmental health, compliance and enforcement and events planning as well as colleagues from Greater Manchester Police.

- House parties
- Isolation of cases within Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)
- Students working in hospitality – bars / restaurants etc
- Commuting - safe use of community transport
- Community cohesion between students and residents (may be exacerbated if students are not following COVID-19 restrictions and guidance)

Off campus work - students in neighbourhoods

- Daily multi agency tactical meetings
- Comms letter to top 12 streets
- Email to landlords to pass on to students
- Asking students to register with GPs
- Community night time patrols
- Social distancing in shops messaging
- District Centre Engagement
- Ad Van - Digital COVID messaging
- Messaging to local councillors and residents
- Door knocking - 5000 doors - social distancing messaging

Adapting to the changing context

- Incidence rising sharply in the City (almost 150 cases per 100,000)
- Impact of new national measures from 24 September and existing local restrictions
- Deep dive to be completed (extracting student cases from postcode analysis)
- Increasing access to testing to manage outbreaks effectively
- Avoiding the “blame game”
- Strengthening the collaborative approach with other Greater Manchester Universities
- Acknowledging the new time frame (6 months) but also planning for the future (Mass vaccination programme)