

Dear Student,

I am writing with an important update which has been informed by the current public health situation in the City.

Based on our COVID-19 case numbers, we recently moved to Tier 2 of the Outbreak Response Plan. Since then, numbers in the city have been rising significantly.

**On the advice of Newcastle's Director of Public Health** and in collaboration with Newcastle City Council, both universities in the city have today agreed to **move temporarily to Tier 3 of the Department for Education's guidance on delivery of teaching during COVID-19 outbreaks according to their respective Local Outbreak Response Plans.**

At Newcastle University, this means:

- All programmes will be delivered online **except** where present-in-person sessions are essential to meet programme learning outcomes or satisfy accreditation requirements. A list will be available via our [FAQs](#) by the end of this week.
- The campus will remain open and we will continue to deliver services for our students in a COVID-secure environment.
- For research students, research that needs to be done on campus will continue. If this applies to your research, you should liaise with your Supervisor in the first instance, to discuss arrangements for accessing the campus, buildings, workspaces etc.

This decision will be implemented from tomorrow (Thursday 8 October 2020) for an initial period of three weeks until the end of October. It will be reviewed regularly by the University on the advice of the Director of Public Health.

**This decision has not been taken lightly** and we very much hope we will be able to return to more present-in-person teaching as soon as possible.

Student Services will continue to provide support for students on and off campus, including the package of support we are providing for our [students who are self-isolating](#).

I recognise what a difficult time this is for many of you, and our teams will continue to support and guide you throughout this period, both on and off campus.

I understand that you will have a lot of questions, so please bear with us. This decision has had to be made very rapidly and we are in the process of updating our FAQs.

Your academic units will be providing you with more information on the implications of this decision both in relation to on-campus services and essential teaching as soon as possible prior to the start of teaching.

I appreciate your continued resilience and patience in these challenging circumstances as we support you through these difficult weeks,

With thanks,

Professor Chris Day

Vice-Chancellor and President of Newcastle University