

Dear Students

Many of you are either on placement, about to go on placement or are scheduled to engage in placements as a required element of your programme of study, in the next month.

Considering the recent Government announcement which indicates a lockdown from Thursday 5th November, (subject to the agreement) I believe it would be helpful to confirm the following with you all today for clarity.

Unlike the previous COVID-19 lockdown, Statutory guidance is already available, which includes the approach in the event of a resurgence. It is clear from this that.

- Health and Social Care services are set to continue. This means that whilst there will not be wholesale service removal as previously, there may be some adjustments which could cause some disruption to placement plans.
- All students will be considered 'essential workers' whilst in placement.
- Student Placements in Health and Social Care setting will not be paid but will continue to operate as current.
- Students (and their families) who undertake Health and Social Care placement will be afforded Life Assurance benefits relating to COVID-19 impact, through Ministerial discretion in the established Insurance arrangements,

The university expectations are that all students who should be entering placement, will do so, as soon as practicable, noting for some there may be delays as COVID-19 cases increase locally and services need to flex.

You will enter placement after completing the new risk assessment process which is designed to manage individual health risks. If you have increased risks, wherever possible we will work to get you a placement. If you do not have increased risks and are required to work with COVID-19 suspected or confirmed cases, you will only do so after receiving additional PPE training if this is required, within your placement provider.

As more details or any change occurs in relation to health and social care placements, these will be communicated by updates directly from the Faculty. Please also watch out for general student updates on your student COVID-19 pages.

Thank you and stay safe

Debra

Professor Debra Towse, PVC and Dean.