

Covid-19 Secure Policy	
Operational Owner:	Director of Health and Safety
Executive Owner:	Chief Operating Officer (COO)
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Related documents:	

Approval History

Version	Reviewed by	Brief reason for review	Approved by	Date
1.0	New Policy	N/A	Gold Command Chair of Health and Safety Committee	10 June 2020 10 June 2020
2.0	Director of Health and Safety, Silver Command, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated	Gold	10 August 2020
3.0	Director of Health and Safety, Silver Command, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated including latest UK Government "Rule of 6" requirements for social distancing.	Gold	29 Sept 2020
4.0	Director of Health and Safety, Silver Command, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated including latest UK Government national lockdown, the University's Covid- 19 testing capabilities, and requirements on the wearing of face coverings.	Gold	10 Feb 2021
5.0	Director of Health and Safety, Silver Command, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated including UK Government Roadmap out of lockdown, re-introduction of the rule of 6, latest staff and student induction requirements.	Gold	29 March 2021
6.0	Director of Health and Safety, Silver Command, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated to reflect Step 2 of the Roadmap out of lockdown.	Gold	12 April 2021
7.0	Director of Health and Safety, Silver Command, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated to reflect Step 3 of the Roadmap out of lockdown.	Gold	19 May 2021
8.0	Director of Health and Safety, Covid Oversight Group, Chief Student Officer	Reviewed and updated to reflect delay in Step 4 of the Roadmap out of lockdown.	COO	25 June 2021
9.0	Director of Health and Safety, Covid Oversight Group, Chief	Reviewed and updated to reflect Step 4 of the Roadmap out of	COO	27 August

	Student Officer	lockdown.		2021
10	Director of Health and Safety, Covid Oversight Group	Reviewed in preparation for Semester 2 teaching	COO	08 Nov 2021

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 This Policy outlines the arrangements adopted by the University for making our facilities and provision available in a way that minimises risks during the Covid-19 pandemic. The University recognises that these arrangements will depend on such factors as the demographic profile of our staff and students, the nature of our institution, including the size and type, and how our institution is organised and managed. The requirements are principally informed by advice and guidance from UK Government, the Covid-19 Secure Guidance, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this Policy is to enable the University to operate effectively and allow staff, students, contractors, and visitors to undertake their activities during the Covid-19 pandemic without detriment to their health, safety and wellbeing.
- 1.1.3 The University recognises that this is a Policy that focuses on the practical aspects of returning safely to campus and that this will have an impact on some members of the community in terms of individual needs. Line managers will be working with staff to ensure that the returning to work process considers their individual support needs.

1.2 Scope

- 1.2.1 This Policy applies to staff, students, contractors, and visitors accessing/working/studying/residing on University premises.
- 1.2.2 This Policy applies to all premises under the University's control, including outdoor spaces.
- 1.2.3 As the University continues to operate a phased return for members of staff, students, and visitors, this Policy will be reviewed regularly, with the objective of it applying to every aspect of University business, including all educational, research, commercial, residential accommodation, recreational and management activities.

1.3 Definitions

1.3.1 Roadmap out of Lockdown

From 19 July 2021, most legal restrictions to control Covid-19 were lifted at Step 4. This means, *inter alia*, that:

- People do not need to stay 2 metres apart from others they do not live with. There are also no limits on the number of people you can meet. However, in order to minimise risk at a time of high prevalence (i.e. high infection rates), Government guidance states people should limit the close contact they have with those they do not usually live with and increase close contact gradually. This includes minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
- People should meet outdoors where possible and let fresh air into homes or other enclosed spaces.
- The Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can. However, the Government expects and recommends a gradual return over the summer.
- The requirement to wear face coverings in law has been lifted. However, the Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport.
- There are no longer restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship.
- Everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious.

1.3.2 Social Distancing

Social distancing is a set of non-pharmaceutical interventions or measures intended to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other.

For further details see Section 2.2.3.

1.3.3 Personal Protective Equipment

In the UK, the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended) apply to the use of PPE, additional regulations apply to the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE).

PPE protects the user against health or safety risks at work. It can include items such as safety helmets, gloves, eye protection, high visibility clothing, safety footwear and safety harnesses. It also includes RPE, such as face masks. A face mask can include a surgical type mask or close fitting RPE designated at FFP3 or equivalent.

For further information on face masks see Appendix 1.

1.3.4 Face Coverings

In the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, a face covering is something which safely covers the nose and mouth. They can be reusable or single use. This includes the use of a scarf, bandana, religious garment or hand-made cloth covering but these must securely fit round the side of the face.

Face coverings are not classified as PPE because rather than protecting the user, they are intended to protect others.

1.3.5 Accessibility

We recognise we have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that staff, students and service users with a disability do not suffer a substantial disadvantage when doing their job, engaging in study or accessing our services when compared to persons without a disability.

2 Policy

2.1 Principles

2.1.1 Compliance with the requirements of this Policy will ensure:

- The University meets its obligations in respect of legislation.
- The health protection of staff and students, whilst on University premises.
- The health protection of staff and students whilst undertaking University-related activities off-site, including overseas.
- The health protection of contractors authorised to work on our premises.
- The health protection of visitors authorised to access or work on our premises.
- Everyone is aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- That staff, students, contractors, and visitors are appropriately informed, instructed and where necessary trained.

2.1.2 In order to meet the above objectives, the University will:

- Clearly define the organisational arrangements for achieving compliance (see roles and responsibilities section of this Policy).
- Implement current UK Government guidance, translating its requirements into specific

actions in relation to the nature of its business. When considering how to apply this guidance, it will take into account staff, students, contractors, as well as other persons who may be affected by University activities.

- Continue to comply with its existing legal obligations relating health and safety, employment and equality.
- Ensure that the risks associated with Covid-19 are assessed and managed through processes of risk assessment and that risk controls are implemented to protect staff and others. It is recognised that the risk of Covid-19 cannot be eliminated and, as such, the University will assess these risks and do everything reasonably practicable to minimise them.
- As part of the risk assessment process, have regard to whether the staff, students or service users are especially vulnerable to Covid-19.
- Consider the assessment of individual health needs through the provision of existing anticipatory procedures for participation and support.
- Use current Government guidance to inform its decisions and control measures, including the specific circumstances under which personal protective equipment or face coverings are to be worn. Where anyone chooses to wear a face covering or has a legitimate reason not to wear one, the University will not accept behaviour by others which dissuades or judges a person for making this choice or justifiable decision.
- Produce and keep under review a [Code of Practice](#) for all staff and postgraduate research students working on campus.
- Produce and, where necessary, implement an operational plan which sets out the arrangements for preventing and/or containing an outbreak of the virus and minimising its impact.
- Ensure that the required actions and behaviours of staff, students, contractors, visitors, and other service users are communicated effectively, including the provision of information, instruction and training (including the provision of signage) for the management of risks.
- Consult with health and safety representatives from the recognised trade unions and staff on the management of risks.
- Engender a culture of question and challenge, where staff, students and others are encouraged to raise concerns or report problems in relation to their health, safety and wellbeing.
- Consider disciplinary action for any person who breaches the requirements of this Policy, associated procedures and regulations, or endangers them self or others.
- Continually review its risk management arrangements to ensure they remain effective, and in accordance with any updates in legislation and Government guidance.

2.2 Policy Procedures

2.2.1 Risk Assessment

In accordance with Government guidance, as part of the process of operating its buildings, campuses and services as well as the continued return of staff and students, the University will use risk assessment to inform its decisions and control measures. Such an approach will be integrated into every aspect of University business, including all educational, research, commercial, residential accommodation, recreational and management activities. These risk assessments will establish the mitigating measures necessary, the circumstances under which PPE is required, and any other precautions necessary to manage the risk.

Mitigating actions that the University may implement include measures such as:

- Keeping the activity time as short as possible.
- Using screens and barriers to separate people from each other.
- Using back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible*.
- Reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using 'fixed teams or

- partnering' (so each person works with only a few others).
- Promoting frequent hand washing and surface cleaning.
- Maintaining regular cleaning of surfaces, particularly surfaces which people touch regularly.
- Encouraging the use of face coverings and requiring where a risk assessment identifies such wearing as a precautionary measure.
- Requiring distancing where a risk assessment identifies this as a precautionary measure linked to the specific activity involved
- Any other action identified to be necessary, including in response to updates in Government guidance.

** Where such measures are adopted, consideration will be given to the impact on people with hearing impairments and other long-term health needs/disabilities, and how they can be supported.*

To assist with the risk assessment process, the University will apply the existing Government guidance which identifies the steps that will usually be needed in a range of different working environments/workplace activities, as well as those specifically relating to the Higher Education sector.

2.2.2 Induction

Before returning to campus all staff must complete a Return to Campus induction on [SurreyLearn](#). This includes academics and Faculty staff, professional services and postgraduate researchers.

Students must also complete an induction and confirmation of completion.

This will ensure that staff, postgraduate researchers and students are fully aware of the changes that have been made to campus operations and understand the Covid-secure health and safety protocols which have been put in place.

2.2.3 Social Distancing

In accordance with the Government guidance the University will ensure that its activities are managed in accordance with the measures/restrictions required by Step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown. Such requirements will apply to all University premises, on-site activities, as well as whilst undertaking University-related activities off-site. Since 19 July 2021, with the lifting of most legal restrictions, people do not need to stay 2 metres apart from people they do not live with. There are also no limits on the number of people you can meet. However, there are actions everyone at the University can take to minimise the transmission of COVID-19, and staff and students are advised to:

- Meet outside rather than indoors, if possible.
- If meeting inside, ensure the space is well ventilated (i.e. open windows and doors).
- At times of high infection rates, limit close contact with those they do not usually live with, and increase close contact gradually. This includes minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
- Observe distancing where a risk assessment identifies this as a precautionary measure
- Participate in the national vaccination programme, as well as twice weekly testing to identify asymptomatic positive cases quickly and ensure self-isolation to break the chain of transmission.
- Continue to practice effective respiratory and hand hygiene procedures, frequently washing hands for 20 seconds or more and/or using hand sanitizer.
- Use the NHS Covid-19 app to help stop the spread of the virus by informing you that you have been in close contact with someone who has since tested positive for COVID-19, even if you don't know each other.

2.2.4 Covid-19 Testing

The University recognises that Covid-19 testing plays a key role in mitigating the transmission of the virus, including the early identification and isolation of members of its community who are asymptomatic and may be unintentionally spreading the virus. As such, it will:

- Facilitate and support the NHS Covid-19 testing of all staff and students who are experiencing symptoms (however mild) through its Rapid Response Team and, where assessed as necessary, its in-house testing facilities;
- Co-operate with any request from Government to participate in the mass asymptomatic testing of members of its community, including the provision of home test kits;
- Conduct additional asymptomatic testing through its testing facilities, where risk assessment or advice and guidance from Government identifies this to be necessary.

2.2.5 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The University recognises the UK Government's advice and guidance in relation to the use of PPE and that it advocates the use of alternative more effective control measures. It also acknowledges that PPE is in limited supply and that supply is prioritised for the NHS and other front-line higher risk services. It also accepts that it is a challenge to wear PPE for prolonged periods of time and maintain effective hygiene controls.

Where personnel are already using PPE/RPE in their work activity to protect against non-COVID-19 risks, the University will continue to comply with its existing legal obligations by providing such equipment in accordance with the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended), and other relevant regulations and guidance.

For Covid-19 risks, the University will provide PPE/RPE where the risk assessment identifies it to be necessary and, only, if it is needed after implementing other measures/controls. Such PPE/RPE will be subject to the requirements of relevant regulations, face fit testing and training requirements.

Examples of where the University has currently assessed PPE/RPE as necessary include:

- Specific laboratory work.
- Some incidences of clinical teaching/learning.
- First aid responders assisting an individual who is symptomatic and may have COVID-19.
- Cleaning workplaces following illness or first aid incidents where there may be contact with body fluids.
- Accessing accommodation where residents are symptomatic (i.e. maintenance and security staff).

Standards of enforcement procedure apply to the use of PPE/RPE where designated as a control measure and will be linked to the mandatory signage and operating procedures.

2.2.6 Face Coverings

The University recognises the UK Government advice and guidance on the safe use of face coverings. Covid-19 spreads through the air by droplets and aerosols that are exhaled from the nose and mouth of an infected person. There is evidence to suggest that, when used correctly, face coverings may reduce the likelihood of someone with the infection passing it on to others, particularly if they are asymptomatic.

At the University, the wearing of a face covering is required where a risk assessment identifies such wearing as a precautionary measure, and only after other more effective measures have been considered.

Furthermore, the University anticipates that all members of its community will familiarise themselves with the latest Government guidance on face coverings, recognise that they do assist with containment of the virus, and accept that responsibility for wearing a face covering sits with them, as an individual. As such the University will continue to encourage through the provision on signage and other means of communication, the recommendation to wear a face covering in enclosed and crowded spaces.

The wearing of a face covering is also strongly advised when living with a person confirmed as positive or with active symptoms, to further reduce transmission in the home environment.

In consideration of the above, a face covering will continue to not be worn in the following circumstances:

- Not being able to put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, or without severe distress.
- If you are providing assistance to someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.
- If giving a lecture, leading a seminar or a teaching session and when the wearing of a face covering would impede communication.
- When undertaking a formal University activity which has been risk assessed and identified as not being conducive for the wearing of a face covering (e.g. dancing/singing as part of a programme of study/research).
- Instances for safety and security reasons that necessitate an individual to remove a face covering for identification purposes. Such request should be undertaken in a well-ventilated location and ensure good hygiene practices.

For further guidance on face coverings, refer to the [UK Government guidance](#), which all staff and students should be aware of, including how to wear a face covering, when to wear one, exemptions, , and making your own face covering.

2.2.7 Accommodation

The University will follow the UK Government guidance with regard to Covid-secure communal living and will undertake, and keep under review, a [risk assessment](#) to establish the measures it will take to ensure the safety of students (and others) within University accommodation.

The responsibilities of residents will also form part of the current [Residents' Guide](#), which incorporates the conditions of residence.

2.2.8 Teaching and Learning

All teaching and learning spaces will be risk assessed to ensure they meet government guidelines.

In addition, the University will produce and keep under review:

- A [Central Teaching Spaces Risk Assessment](#) showing the new room capacities and the Covid-secure measures which have been implemented in each room.
- Operational Protocols for Faculty teaching spaces on campus, where required.

2.2.9 Hospitality (including pubs, cafés and restaurants)

All University premises (including the Students' Union) which carry on a business as a pub, restaurant, café, or provide food or drink for consumption on the premises will be operated in accordance with the measures/restrictions required by the latest [Government guidance](#). The continued operation of such facilities will be subject to a risk assessment.

2.3 Roles and Responsibilities

2.3.1 Executive Board will approve this Policy, including any future revisions.

2.3.2 Covid Oversight Group will monitor the continued effectiveness of this Policy and review its requirements in response to the recovery and return of staff and students, the periodic updating of Government guidance, and whenever there is a significant change or reason to believe it is no longer valid.

2.3.3 Director of Health and Safety

The Director will be responsible for:

- The provision of advice and guidance on the application of government guidance.
- Where necessary, liaising with the enforcement authorities.
- Reporting incidents under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR).

2.3.4 Members of staff/students

In addition to the responsibility to take care of their own health and safety and take due consideration for the health and safety of others, the University requires members of staff and students to:

- Not come onto campus or leave their halls of residence/accommodation if they or anyone they are living with has symptoms of Covid-19, completing the [online form](#) immediately. They must then:
 - Arrange for a test as soon as possible (via either the University's Rapid Response Team (RRT) or NHS Test and Trace service) and stay at home and wait for the results.
 - Where the results are positive for Covid-19, self-isolate in accordance with current [Government guidelines](#) and inform the RRT immediately. Only return to campus/work/study when the required self-isolation period has expired, the resultant fever has subsided, and they feel recovered enough.
 - Where the results are negative, return to campus/work/study when they feel well enough.
 - If you're told by either the NHS Test and Trace service or the University's RRT that you've been in contact with a person who has coronavirus (Covid-19), stay at home for the required self-isolation period. An instruction from the NHS service will take precedence over any advice given by the University.
 - Co-operate with the University in respect of any information requested to assist Public Health England (PHE) with contact tracing and comply with any subsequent advice to self-isolate.

Note: Since 16 August 2021, fully vaccinated close contacts will not need to self-isolate but should take a PCR test and self-isolate if it is positive.

- If, whilst at work or on University premises, they start to experience Covid-like symptoms or feel unwell due to unexpected symptoms, no matter how mild, they should leave the campus or return to their accommodation immediately and:
 - for staff: inform their manager, and complete the [online form](#)
 - for students: complete the [online form](#),at which point, the above requirements on testing, self-isolation, and test and trace will then apply.

Note: As part of our wider contingency plans to support the campus community, two flow charts have been created (for [staff](#) and [students](#)) so that everyone can see the steps that will be taken when an individual notifies the University that they have received a positive test or that they have Covid-19 symptoms.

- Familiarise themselves and comply with the Government guidance in respect of Step 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown.
- Assist with reducing transmission by co-operating with any reasonable request to undertake a Covid-19 test. Staff and students may be asked to provide evidence of testing.
- Ensure they continue to practice effective respiratory and hand hygiene procedures, frequently washing their hands for 20 seconds or more and/or using hand sanitizers.
- Whilst on University premises and/or undertaking work activities, adhere to the findings of any risk assessment, and the requirements of any information, instruction and training (including induction and signage) provided.
- Wear PPE/RPE in accordance with instruction and training.
- Familiarise themselves with the latest Government guidance on face coverings, recognise that they do assist with containment of the virus, and accept that responsibility for wearing a face covering sits with them, as an individual.
- Bring without delay to the attention of their line manager or person responsible for the area or activity, any identified hazards, concerns or necessary improvements.
- Not intentionally or recklessly interfere, misuse or remove anything provided in the interests of health, safety and well-being (e.g. sanitizing equipment or signage).

Note: The above requirements are in addition to staff and students complying with other University policies and standards, and relevant arrangements for the area or activity.

Failure to comply with the above requirements may be regarded as a breach of English Law and/or University Regulations and may result in disciplinary action.

2.3.5 Contractors (including agency staff and consultants)

In addition to the existing obligations in relation to their operations, all contractors will be required to:

- Comply with this Policy.
- If, whilst on University premises, they start to experience Covid-like symptoms or feel unwell due to unexpected symptoms, no matter how mild, leave the campus immediately and inform their University site contact.
- Co-operate with the University in relation to the implementation of its Covid-19 secure measures.
- Conduct their own risk assessments in accordance with UK Government guidance, including the provision of PPE/RPE.

Note: University staff that appoint contractors are responsible for managing any such contractor who provide services and/or work in premises occupied by or on behalf of the University.

2.3.6 Visitors

All visitors to the University are required to follow any health and safety instructions given to them.

2.3.7 Supporting behaviours

While individuals may have differing views as to the adequacy of current UK Government

guidelines or the effectiveness of our response to these requirements, this is a situation in which the actions of one may affect the health, safety or wellbeing of another and, therefore, there will be an obligation to comply with the University's agreed requirements and guidelines.

The primary objective of any enforcement action will be to protect members of our University community, including those we interact with as part of every aspect of our business. The secondary aim will be to change behaviour and to prevent re-occurrence.

Staff and students will be encouraged to work as a supportive community, and will not be expected to routinely report on, observe others, or police behaviour. The University community will be signposted to report concerns through the [Report and Support portal](#), where any "hotspots" may be identified for action by local bronze teams. This may initiate a change in planning, signage for that area, or other appropriate response. In cases of behaviours that are of significant concern, staff and students should contact Security.

In the cases of individual non-compliance, education will be the initial response, undertaken by the line manager or the personal tutor or programme leader. Those who contravene the requirements and/or guidelines on a serial or serious basis will be managed through the existing disciplinary process, taking into consideration the secondary aim of preventing re-occurrence. This may mean more apparent serious sanctions such as restriction of access to University facilities are undertaken over sanctions such as warnings or fines.

3 Governance Requirements

3.1 Implementation / Communication Plan

3.1.1 The Policy is communicated to all staff and students as part of the Coronavirus advice webpages.

It is also communicated through specific, relevant training, including inductions and specific training sessions for staff and contractors 'Green Book' training (repeated every 12 months).

Relevant Health and Safety Committees and Estates, Facilities and Commercial Services (EFCS) Committees will be notified and information disseminated through line management.

The Policy is communicated through the 'Green Book', available on the EFCS website and Health & Safety Intranet sites.

3.2 Exceptions to this Policy

3.2.1 There are no exceptions.

3.3 Review and Update

3.3.1 In view of the periodic updating of Government guidance, this Policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure it takes account of these changing circumstances.

3.3.2 This is an evolving document and the impact of different groups of people particularly in relation to equality impact will be continually monitored, and adjustments and support provided as circumstances change/develop. This will include a review of the Equality Impact Assessment.

3.3.3 All changes will be reviewed and agreed by Covid Oversight Group and approved by Executive Board.

3.4 Legislative context

3.4.1 The requirements of:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and associated subordinate legislation
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Coronavirus Act 2020
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No.2) (England) Regulations 2020 (as amended)
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (All Tiers) (England) Regulations 2020
- The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a relevant place) (England) Regulations 2020
- Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings on Public Transport) (England) Regulations 2020 (as amended)
- Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Obligations of Hospitality Undertakings) (England) Regulations 2020.

3.4.2 Policy Legal Statement

This policy sets out to comply with the required 'duty of care' placed upon the University. Under Health and Safety Law a 'duty of care' is generated between organisations and individuals when carrying out activities that could foreseeably cause harm.

The primary duty of care is owed through the employer-employee relationship in which the employer owes a duty of care to ensure that work activities that could result in harm to the employee are assessed and controlled. That duty of care is put into practice by the line management responsibilities as set out in the hierarchy of the organisation.

This duty of care cannot be delegated away; instead the act of delegation must be accompanied by a realistic and workable system of monitoring or supervision to ensure that the delegated task has been adequately implemented (i.e. the responsibility is not met by giving directions; it is met when those directions have been confirmed as carried out). The result is a cascade of delegated accountability that runs through the organisation via the line management network, accompanied by a system of monitoring, supervision and feedback.

The duty of care extends to assurance that services provided by others (be they another department of the University or contractors) are undertaken safely. The level of assurance required should be commensurate with the risk of the activity. In addition, anyone carrying out an activity owes a duty of care to anyone who may be put at risk by the activity, such as students, staff and visitors.

3.4.3 Other References:

[Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy](#)

[Higher education providers: coronavirus \(Covid-19\)](#)

[Working safely during the coronavirus \(Covid-19\) pandemic](#)

3.5 Stakeholder Statements

- 3.5.1 **Equality:** Consideration is given to the protected characteristics of all people groups identified in the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics include: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief;

sex; and sexual orientation.

The University has legal obligations to ensure it has due regard to equality in implementing measures under this Policy, and that this Policy does not unlawfully discriminate against groups who share a protected characteristic. This Policy and all other associated health and safety related policies take this into account.

3.5.2 **Health & Safety:** This Policy forms part of the overarching statement on health and safety for the University.

3.5.3 **Covid Oversight Group, Executive Board, Compliance (Health, Safety and Wellbeing) Committee, and Health and Safety Consultative Committee (as required).**

Changes to this Policy will be consulted, reviewed and approved at the appropriate level, in line with policy guidance.

Appendix 1

There is a variety of PPE used to control the transmission of infectious diseases. This ranges from sophisticated full-face respirators, to simple disposable fluid repellent medical masks, to a simple medical face mask that covers the nose, mouth and chin. They prevent droplets from reaching these parts of the wearer's face and reduce the spread of infectious droplets from the person wearing it. All types of medical face masks are designed to meet quality standards.

Uses for Masks

- Masks are loose fitting, covering the nose and mouth.
- Designed for one-way protection, to capture bodily fluid leaving the wearer.
- Example – worn during surgery to prevent coughing, sneezing, etc. on the patient.
- Contrary to belief, masks are not designed to protect the wearer.
- The vast majority of masks do not have a safety rating assigned to them (e.g. NIOSH or EN).

Uses for Respirators

- Respirators are tight fitting masks, designed to create a facial seal
- Non-valved respirators provide good two-way protection, by filtering both inflow and outflow of air.
- These are designed protect the wearer (when worn properly), up to the safety rating of the mask.
- Available as disposable, half face or full face.
- They have safety rating and EN number.

Common standards

- FFP3 mask: a European standard disposable respirator that seals the nose and mouth and offers a very high level of filtration of particles in aerosols (99%).
- N95 masks: an American standard disposable respirator that seals the nose and mouth, it offers a lower level of particle filtration (95%, equivalent to the European FFP2 standard).
- Surgical masks: fluid resistant mask that covers the mouth and nose but is not sealed.

Regulations and HSE advice

In the UK, the [Personal Protective Equipment regulations 2002](#) apply to the use of PPE, additional regulations apply to the use of respiratory protective equipment (RPE):

The selection and use of PPE/RPE is often associated as a control measure of last resort and is linked with both the control of substances hazardous to health regulations 2002 and the management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the requirement for employers to undertake risk assessments.

Detailed advice and guidance on the use of RPE can be found on the [HSE website](#)

Additional requirements also apply to [face fit testing and the use of RPE](#).