

## AUB Covid-19 – Risk Assessment – Post July 2021

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### Rationale and Context:

The overarching risk assessment is intended to provide direction for colleagues studying and working in AUB buildings and on campus. It is not designed to provide lists of hazards and risks associated with course and room activities – these will need to be completed separately. Whilst vaccines have reduced the link between severe disease and death, in line with all other settings, HE providers should continue to conduct risk assessments for their circumstances. They should implement sensible and proportionate control measures which follow the health and safety hierarchy of controls to reduce the risk to the lowest reasonably practicable level. HE providers should have contingency plans to deal with any identified positive cases of COVID-19 or outbreaks. The risk assessment is aligned to the following government guidance that was last updated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1056998/20220223\\_HE\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1056998/20220223_HE_guidance.pdf)

### Risk Assessment Matrix:

		Severity of Outcome				
		Minimal	Minor	Serious	Very Serious	Major
Likelihood	Unlikely	1	2	3	4	5
	Possible	2	4	6	8	10
	Probable	3	6	9	12	15
	Highly likely	4	8	12	16	20
	Certain	5	10	15	20	25

Risk Rating	Evaluation	Action Plan	
1 - 5	Low risk	Appropriate control measures are in place with little risk of an incident occurring. Activities should be monitored to ensure control measures remain appropriate	Good mitigation/control measures are in place, but regular reviews should take place to ensure the risk remains low
6 - 12	Medium risk	Activities may be undertaken but closely monitored. Additional control measures should be considered and implemented whenever possible.	Additional mitigation and control measures to be considered to further control the level of risk
16 - 25	High risk	The activity is considered a danger to the health and safety of personnel and the environment. Suitable Control Measures must be introduced to lessen the risk to an acceptable level. If it is not possible to reduce the risk, then the activity may not be allowed to proceed.	Mitigation and control measures required to eliminate or reduce the risk to an acceptable standard

Item	Hazard	Risk	Those affected	R1	Mitigation and Control Measures	R2	Remarks, Comments and further controls
1	Spread of the coronavirus is most transmissible through the atmosphere from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe.	Particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosol and both easily transmissible.	All users of the campus and other AUB locations	12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Staff returning to work in AUB buildings and on campus may feel anxious and seek assurance from line management. Line managers will discuss issues with employees seeking support from HR where needed.</li> <li>2. The use of face coverings in all indoor areas (unless medically exempt), will continue to be encouraged across AUB campus. They may also be required in areas where there has been a report of localised outbreaks. Certain activities will also require face coverings and students will be advised of this by course teams.</li> <li>3. Continue to encourage twice weekly testing and use of free test service available to 1st April 2022 although on campus distribution stopped by government.</li> <li>4. The University is prepared to meet any emergency or resurgence of the virus by retaining stocks of face coverings, hand sanitising resources and to re-introduce physical distancing and limits on room capacities.</li> <li>5. Campus Services hold various types of face covers from the standard disposable surgical mask, FFP2 and masks with clear facial masks. All are available for collection from the Post Room.</li> <li>6. Good ventilation to be encouraged in all rooms, staff and students advised to keep windows open. Mechanical ventilation systems are set to run and provide best ventilation levels. Balance must be maintained in colder months between good ventilation and heating levels, recommendation for occupants to dress appropriately.</li> <li>7. From July 2021 to the end of the Autumn term, the University trialled agile working practices. Findings now being reviewed.</li> </ol>	6	<p>Current evidence suggests that the virus spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with each other, typically within 1 metre (short-range). A person can be infected when aerosols or droplets containing the virus are inhaled or come directly into contact with the eyes, nose, or mouth.</p> <p>The virus can also spread in poorly ventilated and/or crowded indoor settings, where people tend to spend longer periods of time. This is because aerosols remain suspended in the air or travel farther than 1 metre (long-range)</p> <p>Air change rate should be in the region of 5-8 changes per hour.</p>

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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Meetings with others or taught sessions, tutorials etc may continue using Teams or Zoom.</li> <li>9. Adopt the old influenza adage for reducing the risk of passing on germs and microorganisms – ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it.’</li> <li>10. All spaces can be booked to normal maximum capacity.</li> <li>12. Windows and window vents can be left open to allow fresh air into spaces.</li> <li>13. Regular breaks during sessions could be adopted to improve fresh air circulation.</li> <li>14. Singing, voice tuition and close proximity/physical contact activities are assessed at course/ department level with control measures adopted as necessary as detailed in local risk assessments</li> <li>15. Users will be encouraged to use the Track and Trace system and scan the QR codes on buildings through signage.</li> <li>16. The Outbreak Management Plan has been updated and is available on AUB intranet.</li> <li>17. Students encouraged to keep their working or desk area clean by use of cleaning tissues or materials provided.</li> <li>18. Staff to work from home in the event of experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19.</li> <li>19. In line with AUB's Absence and Attendance Policy, if staff are unwell and unable to work for whatever sickness reason, they should remain at home, seek medical advice if required, and report this to line manager.</li> <li>20. Perspex screens at receptions and desks no longer required and can be removed.</li> </ol>	
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2	Infection through touching a surface or surfaces contaminated with the Covid-19 / SARS-CoV-2 variant and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth.	Evidence suggests that the risk from touching contaminated surfaces is less than first thought	All users of the campus and other AUB locations	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The risk from soft furnishings is deemed to be relatively low. Furniture to be reinstated in areas where it as removed.</li> <li>2. Cleaning standards need to be kept high but the practice of janitors regularly disinfecting common touch points can be reduced. Cleaning and hygiene products available from Campus Services for course teams and professional services teams to use to clean surfaces and areas regularly.</li> <li>3. The practice of applying Zoono to areas will cease as will using the same product on photocopiers.</li> <li>4. Hand hygiene is still important and to be encouraged with appropriate signage.</li> <li>5. Wash and restroom occupancy limits can be relaxed and revert to pre-covid measures</li> <li>6. Travelling in shared vehicles, users should aim to keep windows open and provide good ventilation.</li> <li>7. Signage to be reviewed to reflect prevailing measures.</li> <li>8. One-way systems can be removed.</li> </ol>	3	
3	Students moving into halls and living and working in proximity with new friends and acquaintances and	The transmission rate from the Delta variant is extremely	Students living in halls of residence and	8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will be expected to be tested before returning, tested on arrival and then tested twice weekly throughout the autumn term 2020 / 21.</li> </ol>	4	Travel arrangements and Covid restrictions and controls for new and returning students from overseas can be found at:

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	within the age group where the majority have still yet to receive a vaccination	progressive and affecting our student population	working on campus		<p>2. Before arriving in the UK, all students should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• check the very latest information on entering the UK</li> <li>• inform their provider when they intend to arrive on campus so that they can be appropriately supported</li> <li>• understand their vaccination status</li> </ul> <p>3. Staff and students should follow national guidance on testing.</p> <p>4. Free testing available until 1st April 2022, communication sent to all with details of where to get test kits from.</p>		<p><a href="https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/coronavirus-guide-for-students/student-guide-to-coronavirus/coronavirus-guidance-for-university-students-2020-21/">https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/coronavirus-guide-for-students/student-guide-to-coronavirus/coronavirus-guidance-for-university-students-2020-21/</a></p> <p>Students should be encouraged to get vaccinated. With Covid-19 circulating in local communities this is the best way to protect themselves and others they mix with.</p>
4	Transmission of coronavirus to those who have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable or vulnerable. Also risk to pregnant employees.	Infection of Covid-19	Clinically extremely vulnerable and vulnerable persons	6	<p>1. CEV and V persons can return to work. Updated guidance at 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 states “Following expert clinical advice and the successful rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, people previously considered to be CEV are not being advised to shield again” and “You should take advice from your health professional on whether additional precautions are right for you.” This is included in general covid safety guidance, link at top of this risk assessment.</p> <p>2. CEV persons should discuss returning to work in AUB buildings and on campus with their line manager (with HR support where needed) to understand current control measures in place. HR may request an individual risk assessment from the respective safety practitioner. Colleagues with CEV and V family at home should also discuss with line managers.</p>	3	<p>‘Shielding’ was paused in April 2021 and clinically extremely vulnerable and vulnerable persons advised to use the same guidance and precautions as everyone else.</p> <p>Higher risk groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• older males,</li> <li>• high BMI</li> <li>• diabetic</li> <li>• from BAME groups</li> </ul> <p>Some pregnant workers will be at a greater risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Details should be included in the risk assessment. Advice from the HSE is that after the 28 week period, expectant mothers are more at risk.</p>

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					<p>3. Expectant mothers' working conditions will be risk assessed in accordance with our H&amp;S Policy but will include a new section for working from home.</p>	<p>Updated guidance from 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 for pregnant employees is available at <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-pregnant-employees</a></p>
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Notes:

- R1 Risk to users without control measures being applied
- R2 Risk to users once control measures are in place (Remedial Risk)