

RETURN TO CAMPUS

A TWO PHASED APPROACH

Trinity will open on September 6th. We will be taking a two-phased approach to our return.

In the first part of semester 1 up to and including Reading Week starting Oct 25th, we will follow the regulations laid out in this document.

For the second part of the semester and beyond, from Nov 1st onwards, we intend to relax regulations further to allow for many more in-person campus experiences. The details of any changes in rules will be collaboratively worked out and distributed in a timely fashion. These statements of course come with the caveat that constraints can be relaxed provided trends in infection rates, vaccine up-take and public health guidelines are all pointing in the right direction.

WHY TAKE A TWO PHASED APPROACH?

As a sector, we signed a pact with Government about the return to campus¹. The spirit of that pact asks we do as much as we can to give in-person campus experiences, while keeping students and staff safe. The pact also recognises that no one size fits all and that we each should carry out a risk assessment as to how we can best proceed.

Given that our main campus is compact and contained within the city centre, that other Trinity locations have similar space constraints and are also in urban settings, that many of our buildings are older and our rooms and lecture theatres in the main campus are not very large, that on the main campus residences are distributed across the campus and that we have more enclosed entrances and exit points, we believe indoor social-distancing must, for now, continue to be a part of our planned return, so we can ensure that our staff and students are safe.

In coming to this conclusion, we have drawn on the expertise in the University and our public health, clinical, science, and safety experts support this approach. I believe they have stood us well thus far and their expertise is the kind of expertise that allowed us to have safe and rewarding in-person graduations, when no other institution was doing so.

We understand that we are not yet at the peak of the current wave of infections. While predictions are not always accurate, a peak is expected over the next month. This means the more cautious approach would coincide with the peak of infections and allow us to adjust after Reading Week to provide more in-person experiences.

The following pages sets out **high-level** regulations that will be in place from September 13th under the headings Lectures, Labs & Tutorials, The Library & Study Spaces, Dedicated

¹ *A safe return to on-site further and higher education and research (Safe Return Plan)* published by D/FHERIS on 15 June 2021

Research Space, Shared Offices, Accommodation, General Campus Access and Social Activity.

Lectures, Labs & Tutorials

The overall approach here is that we will adopt 1m social distancing with mandatory mask-wearing in lectures, labs and tutorials, with lecturers distanced by 2m from students. This means that any lecture, lab or tutorial that can conform to these criteria in its allocated space, should go ahead. There will be no time limit for labs.

In line with Government expectations, and the pact the sector signed, we must ensure that *every student* has some kind of regular in-person learning experience. There is no hard and fast definition of what this means. Different disciplines will be best placed to understand what this should look like in the context of that discipline. This does mean that there may be cases where additional measures need to be taken to ensure that *every student* has some kind of regular in-person learning experience. For example, it may be necessary to support rotated attendance of students in classes, and if this is the case, this should be taken into account during the time-tabling process. This is just an example of one approach, and it is up to the School to decide how best to respond. It is hugely important we maximise the in-person experience in every way we can, especially as a number of other institutions will start the academic year with no social distancing in lectures.

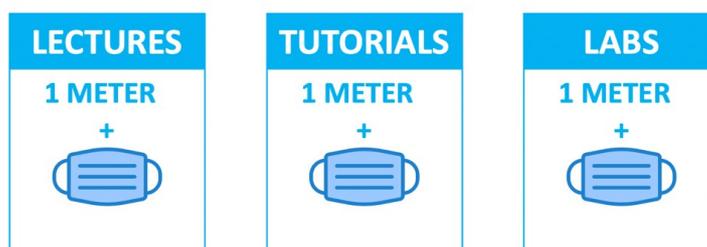
The safe working practices we have adopted to date will continue, and this will help further ensure the safety of staff and students. Staff when delivering content at a 2m distance from students do not need to wear a mask. In fact, we do need to ensure from an accessibility point of view that material can be clearly heard. Staff should wear masks if moving around the laboratory or teaching space. Time-tabled in-person events should finish at 15 minutes to the hour to allow for changeover.

The Federation of European Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (RHEVA) ventilation guidance is 10 litres/second per person and this is in the process of being measured in 400 teaching spaces. By September 6th a notice will be posted outside each of these rooms confirming that this guidance has been met.

It is worth mentioning UniCoV. UniCoV will explore effective rapid testing and surveillance systems within third-level institutes to assist with the early identification of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2. We encourage people to join the UniCoV study -

<https://www.tcd.ie/ttmi/unicov/>

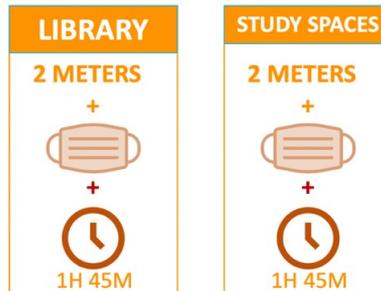
Lectures, Labs & Tutorials in summary:



The Library & Study Spaces

The Library & Study Spaces will continue to operate at 2m social distancing with mandatory mask-wearing. The 1 hr 45 minute limit and booking system will remain in place. There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, we do not have the same leeway under public health guidelines for libraries as we have with teaching and learning spaces, and secondly the time limit will help maximise the number of students who can be accommodated.

The Library & Study Spaces in summary:



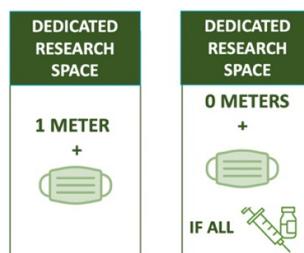
Dedicated Research Space

The term dedicated research space is used here as a catchall for space that is typically dedicated to research activities for postgraduate researchers and staff. These can be labs or other spaces that are solely for the purposes of research and are dedicated to such (i.e. not shared with other activities). We understand that undergraduate students do research projects and that research can take place in many locations, but are not referring to this broader definition under this heading, although undergraduate students may undertake short-term lab based research projects within dedicated research spaces under the guidelines set out. Dedicated research spaces tend to be controlled environments to which defined cohorts of postgrads and staff have access. These spaces also have extensive safe working practice protocols in place, which have been in action for over a year now.

Dedicated research space will operate at 1m social distancing with masks. However, in a number of dedicated research spaces all occupants are vaccinated, due to for example mandatory vaccination stipulated by the HSE for those needing access to clinical settings. Advantage can be taken of this and no social distancing will be required.

We cannot ask or put pressure on an individual to self-declare that they are vaccinated but if it can be determined that all the occupants are vaccinated through voluntary self-declaration, then any dedicated research space can remove the need for social distancing.

Dedicated Research Space in summary:

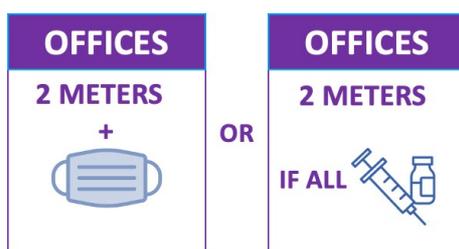


Shared Offices

Shared office space will operate at 2m social distancing with mandatory mask-wearing. We encourage those who can, and where it makes sense, to continue working from home. People should continue to wear masks while moving around indoors.

We cannot ask or put pressure on an individual to self-declare that they are vaccinated but if it can be determined that all the occupants are vaccinated through voluntary self-declaration, then the need for wearing masks in shared offices can be removed.

Shared Offices in summary:



Accommodation

Residents should comply with normal indoor rules, as per national guidelines, when in rooms. Residents must wear masks when outside their apartments when circulating in residential buildings/blocks. The agreed protocols for isolation (for example for incoming international students) and protocols for any outbreak must of course be followed.

There is an additional requirement for residents who are sharing a room. Residents who are sharing a room must have a valid EU Digital Covid Certificate or evidence of full vaccination with a Covid Vaccine approved in Ireland.

General Campus Access

The main message here is that campus will be open to all staff and students. Students will **not** need to have proof of a Library or study space booking to come on campus. We will **not** be insisting students leave campus once lectures/labs/tutorials are finished. We do encourage staff to continue to work from home where agreed or required and where appropriate. Staff and students will need to swipe in and out of college.

Visitors to campus for work-related purposes will be allowed and will have to comply with visiting rules. Visitors include visitors for research purposes.

We will continue to allow visitors to the Book of Kells and will monitor that to ensure smooth functioning.

The campus however will not be open to the general public for the moment.

We do intend to open Front Gate on September 6th.

Social Activity

It is very important that the social life of the College continues.

We look forward to Freshers week. There will be orientation for 2nd year students in the week beginning September 6th as well as a full programme of social events run by the SU, which will act as a Freshers week for 2nd years as they missed out on their own week last year. Freshers Week for 1st years will take place on September 20th, alongside classes for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years, during Freshers Orientation Week. Freshers Fair will take place, in-person, over 3 days, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during Freshers Week.

The Students Union will have an outdoor covered event area near the Pavilion operational from September 6th to October 1st. A time limit will apply to this specific event area for both safety reasons and to ensure as many students as possible get access.

Currently indoor events are not allowed. Hence, we are working on creating more outdoor covered spaces that can be used by Clubs & Societies and students more generally. Sports events will follow public health guidelines.

Masks are not mandatory outdoors, as per public health guidelines, but we recommend the use of masks where groups are gathered.

Any changes in Government guidelines that have an impact on these activities can be put into action immediately.

Social Activity in summary:

CLUBS	SOCIETIES	INDOOR DINING	OUTDOOR SOCIAL	OUTDOOR PAV EVENT
SAME RULES AS APPLY NATIONALLY TO SPORTS CLUBS => ALLOWED WITH RESTRICTIONS	SAME RULES AS APPLY NATIONALLY => NO INDOOR EVENTS FOR NOW	SAME RULES AS APPLY NATIONALLY => ALLOWED WITH COVID CERT	SAME RULES AS APPLY NATIONALLY => ALLOWED	ALLOWED WITH TIME LIMITS  1H 45M

We will of course work to find solutions for staff and students that are in the very high-risk categories on a case-by-case basis.