

October 15th, 2020

Dear Vice Chancellor,

I am writing to you on behalf of the UCU Branch Executive, to express concerns about the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

It has been announced by the UK Government today that both Essex and London have now been placed in the Local Covid Alert Level: High (Tier 2) (See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54551596>).

UCU notes the University has repeatedly stated that government guidelines are the standard by which we should approach the management of risk. Consequently, we call upon senior management to move more of our teaching and campus-based work online, in line with Government guidance (See Government Guidance below).

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVELS

	LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL: 'Medium'	LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL: 'High'	LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL: 'Very High'
Description	National restrictions apply	Further restrictions apply on social contact These restrictions are consistent for every area in Level 2.	Some fixed restrictions, including on household mixing indoors and outdoors, travel advice, and closures of pubs and bars not serving substantial meals with alcohol. Further business restrictions agreed with Local Authorities. Support available to Local Authorities for local test and trace and for enforcement and compliance activity.
Length of time	Regulations expire after 6 months, 28 day review of the regulations	Review geographies every 14 days, review regulations every 28 days, expire after 6 months	Geographies expire after 28 days, regulations expire after 6 months
Social contact	Rule of 6 indoors and outdoors, in all settings	1 household / support bubble indoors Rule of 6 outdoors (including gardens)	1 household / support bubble indoors 1 household / bubble in outdoor gardens, hospitality or ticketed venues. Rule of 6 in outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks / beaches) and sport courts.
Schools; FE colleges	Open	Open	Open
Universities	Open, (but universities must reflect wider restrictions)	Open, but universities must reflect wider restrictions (option to move to greater online provision)	Open, but universities must reflect wider restriction (option to move to greater online provision)
Worship	Open - subject to rule of six	Open - no household mixing indoors	Open - no household mixing
Childcare and children's groups	Registered and wraparound childcare Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted.	Registered and wraparound childcare Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.	Registered and wraparound childcare Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.
Youth clubs and activities	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted

UCU urges the University to take this course of action, especially for our Chelmsford and London operations, so that we can best manage the increased risks to staff, students and the wider community.

Yours sincerely,

Dr John Hogan

Chair, University and College Union, Anglia Ruskin University branch

