

Keeping you safe – Covid-19 policy for students attending ‘in-person’ classes

General

- If you are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 please do not attend your class.
- If you develop symptoms during a class please leave immediately and seek a test.
- If you receive a positive test please inform your tutor and follow official isolation precautions.
- We will use contact details you provided on your enrolment form to inform you if another member of class tests positive. In this case please follow the government advice for someone in contact with a Covid-19 case.
- Please inform your tutor of any change in your contact details from the enrolment form.
- The Centre endorses government policy of getting vaccinated if possible and encourages tutors and students to consider twice weekly use of ‘Lateral Flow’ tests.

In Class

- HLC believes that language learning is impaired by face coverings. Therefore your tutor will teach without a facemask. As there is now overwhelming evidence that the coronavirus is airborne, this decision requires that we use every other reasonable precaution to minimise risk.
- Please wear a face-covering in the building before and after the class. Students can opt to wear a face covering or visor during the class but there is no requirement to do so.
- Hand sanitiser will be available on arrival. Alternatively please wash your hands before class.
- Classes will be one hour duration and tutors will ensure seating is adequately socially distanced. All students will face the tutor.
- Airborne transmission risk indoors increases substantially when people are shouting or singing. Your tutor will therefore ensure the group does not become noisy.

- Eating is not allowed in class. You may bring your own drink.
- Your tutor will clean the furniture before your arrival and after your departure.
- The classroom will be left unoccupied for 30 minutes between classes to allow ventilation.
Please therefore do not arrive early or stay after the end of the class.
- If your class is at Paynes Park House we will ensure that toilets are cleaned and aired before your arrival and cleaning spray will be supplied if you want to clean surfaces before use.
- If your class is at an outside venue, your tutor can provide a copy of the venue's Covid-19 precautions on request.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

We know that for many students the camaraderie of the Centre is as important as the quality of teaching. Our vision is for a Centre which remains a safe and enjoyable place to study. Some may think that the approach outlined above is over-cautious given the vaccination roll out and the Government's stated intention to lift all restrictions on 19 July. However a key learning from the last 15 months in the UK has been that over-confidence can lead to disappointment. Repeated changes of plan are frustrating and exhausting for everyone. Therefore we have decided not to limit ourselves to an approach which merely complies with government rules. Rather we have factored in some resilience should conditions change over the weeks and months ahead. Long term we are committed to a return to in person teaching wherever tutors and students want this. We very much hope that the protection from vaccines will stand up to the third wave in the UK. We will continue our policy of monitoring and adjusting our approach and will keep students informed of any changes as we move into winter and 2022.

Note: Students may wish to take advantage of the free lateral flow tests available from test centres, pharmacies and from the government website. These can identify people who are likely to be infectious enough to be spreading Covid-19. It is recommended that a positive lateral flow test is followed up by a confirmatory PCR test.