



**Interim University Registrar**  
Professor Sue Reece

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For the attention of: KU Branch Committee

The Vice chancellor has asked me to respond on his behalf in my role as Chair of the Return to Campus Group.

The lockdown has been a difficult time for many and the anxiety over returning to a less-restricted way of living and working is real for many colleagues.

The University takes staff and student safety extremely seriously and we will continue to maintain as safe a campus environment as possible within the existing rules and guidance provided to us, as we have done over the last eighteen months.

Our efforts to keep our campus safe to date have been highly effective with no evidence of virus transmission on campus. We have reviewed regularly our [health and safety risk assessments](#), as well as our [outbreak management plan](#), and adapted activities in line with the evolving government guidance. Many of the key safety measures, including enhanced cleaning and ventilation arrangements, will remain in place in all University buildings for the start of the new academic year.

However, the current Covid-19 regulations and [government guidance for HE settings](#) mean that we are unable to mandate face coverings on our campuses. The guidance makes it clear that face coverings and social distancing are no longer advised for staff, students and visitors in communal spaces or teaching rooms and that we cannot refuse education to students who choose not to wear a face covering. On this point, the document states explicitly that “no student should be denied education on the grounds of whether they are, or are not, wearing a face covering.”

While we do not have the power to legally enforce the use of facemasks, we will continue to encourage their use alongside other methods of reducing the risks posed by the virus such as vaccination, good ventilation, frequent hand washing and considerate use of space.

We have consulted with our local Director of Public Health on our proposed approach of encouraging the use of face masks and she has approved our policy position. If there is an outbreak on campus, we will consult them again to consider what additional temporary controls might be required and will follow [the government contingency framework for education and childcare settings](#). We will continue to respond to local and national public health advice on this topic, as we have done throughout the pandemic.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Reece". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Professor Sue Reece**  
**Interim University Registrar**

