

Important request for information - susceptibility to more serious COVID-19 related illness

We are determined that Emmanuel and the community will be as welcoming and supportive a place to live and study as ever in the coming academic year. The inevitable social distancing will undoubtedly test our skills at innovating new ways of socialising and working together. To this end, the Colleges and University are working flat out to implement a range of preventive health and infection control measures to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 as far as possible, and to further support [student health and wellbeing](#) in general through the coming months. With government guidance rapidly evolving please follow the [University coronavirus information pages](#) and look out for more information about these arrangements in the coming weeks and months.

However, the main purpose of this important message is to make sure we are aware of students who may have increased susceptibility, or vulnerability, to infectious diseases (ISID) [<https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/students/guidance-for-all-students/support-for-students-with-increased-susceptibility-to-infectious-diseases-or-with-disabilities>] such as COVID-19 and also those with disabilities that are impacted by COVID-19 related social distancing measures. This information allows us to work with you to put in place the right advice and, where necessary, specific arrangements. Please read this message carefully and respond straight away as necessary.

Please get in touch, at the latest by Friday 4 September 2020, if you have increased susceptibility to infectious diseases (ISID) by e-mailing tutorial-office@emma.cam.ac.uk. We do need to have this information about vulnerability promptly.

Once you have indicated to the College that you may have increased susceptibility to infectious diseases, please arrange for a letter from your physician or specialist medical consultant to reach the College via tutorial-office@emma.cam.ac.uk by 18 September 2020.

The UK government's public agency, Public Health England (PHE) has published guidance to help you understand if you have underlying illnesses that could put you at a [higher risk](#), or even a [very high risk](#), of serious COVID-19 related illness. Check these two links to see if you fall into one of these groups, and if so, follow the advice below.

Very high risk group:

A very small number of people with significant underlying health conditions including, for example but not limited to organ transplant recipients and those with specific cancers, belong in the [very high risk category](#) for serious COVID illness. People in this group need special consideration because of government advice to 'shield' or strictly isolate themselves at times of high levels of virus circulation (note that presently, with lower levels of virus circulation in England, shielding is not currently required). If you are within this group, we need to hear from you as soon as possible, so please:

- Inform the College immediately via tutorial-office@emma.cam.ac.uk, and use this email address for follow-up enquiries.
- Arrange straight away for a letter from your physician or specialist medical consultant detailing your condition and outlining your preventive health needs in the context of plans to enter a residential student environment. Send this letter to the Tutorial Office [tutorial-office@emma.cam.ac.uk] as a matter of urgency.
- You will be contacted to discuss the need for any further information, and to develop a plan for study and living arrangements – working with the relevant University Departments where necessary.
- Once again, please refer to the University's ISID webpage [<https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/students/guidance-for-all-students/support-for-students-with-increased-susceptibility-to-infectious-diseases-or-with-disabilities>] for further information on the range of support available depending on need.

Higher risk group:

People with a wider range of underlying health conditions including chronic respiratory diseases, diabetes and neurological diseases, could belong in the [higher risk group](#) for more serious COVID-related illness. Although not required to 'shield' at any stage, members of this group should:

- Inform the College immediately via tutorial-office@emma.cam.ac.uk, and use this email address for follow-up enquiries.
- Arrange a consultation with your physician or specialist medical consultant for personal advice based on your plans to enter residential student environment.
- Provide further information on your condition through the College's health information gathering system when asked to do so.
- Prepare for your arrival in Cambridge by reading and understanding the advice on social distancing and household hygiene provided on the Cambridge ISID webpages [<https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/students/guidance-for-all-students/guidance-for-resident-students>] and other student information that will be provided in the coming weeks. On arrival, and on an ongoing basis after that, work with your College Tutor and College Nurse to address any remaining concerns.

Let us know if you have disabilities that are impacted by COVID-related social distancing measures

Please let us know if you have any disabilities that are impacted by COVID-related preventive health arrangements (these might include long term health conditions or mobility impairments, or certain mental health conditions). Students in this category will be asked to:

- Confirm straight away to the College (tutorial-office@emma.cam.ac.uk) that you have already registered your disability with the University's [Disabilities Resource Centre](#) (DRC). Use this same email address for subsequent enquiries to the College on this matter.
- You will be contacted by the Tutorial Office to check, in conjunction with DRC, that you have an appropriate arrangement for study and accommodation that meets your specific needs.
- Please refer to the University's ISID webpage [<https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/students/guidance-for-all-students/support-for-students-with-increased-susceptibility-to-infectious-diseases-or-with-disabilities>] for further information on the range of support available depending on need.

Thank you for taking time to think about whether these matters apply to you and in responding promptly to this request for information.

Please note that information will be processed by the College in accordance with our privacy notice for students [<https://www.emma.cam.ac.uk/members/data/>], this may include sharing information with relevant University bodies. We recognise that some of the data which we are requesting is sensitive personal data and we will handle this in accordance with the strict requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018.

With best wishes

Philip Howell

Acting Senior Tutor, 2019-20