

## UPDATE: Delay to stage 4 of the roadmap

### What has happened

- There is to be a **4 week delay** to the next stage of the roadmap
  - This applies to England only, as health is a devolved matter. For Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, check respective government websites
- The new release date is **19 July 2021**
  - There will be a midpoint review of this delay on **5 July 2021**, but the advice is that early release is unlikely
- This delay is due to the Delta variant (first identified in India) becoming the dominant strain in the UK. This variant is 40%-80% more transmissible than previous strains
  - This article has some good visuals to explain why this matters:

[Vaccines are working – but these charts show why England is delaying reopening | Coronavirus | The Guardian](#)

### What this means

- There will be no further relaxation of the rules on 21 June
  - There are minimal exceptions for some events, such as weddings and funerals
- The delay will allow more people to receive either the first or second dose of their vaccine
  - There is also an aim to bring forward vaccinations, reducing the gap between first and second doses. This particularly applies to those over 40, who will see their wait between doses reduced from 12 weeks to 8 weeks.
- Modelling has shown that this delay could save “thousands” of lives
- Source: [What we know about the delay to ending Covid lockdown in England | Coronavirus | The Guardian](#)

## Where we are: **Stage 3 of Government Roadmap** **We will now remain at stage 3 until 19 July 2021**

### On campus delivery

- All courses are now able to be taught on campus where there is need. However, most courses not already on campus have completed teaching.
- The Library is open Monday-Friday 9-7pm, and weekends 10-4, with online support Mon-Fri 5-7pm, and pre-recorded support sessions available at the weekends
- The gym is open for individual use (no indoor team sports at this time)
- SLB has reopened as of 17 May 2021

### Social Distancing

- Rule of six applies to all social meetings. People may meet indoors or outdoors where this is permissible with building use.
- Where the group is composed only of two households, then the group can exceed six people. Children count toward the rule of six
- Stay at home order has been lifted
- Even if you have completed your vaccination schedule, it is possible you can still carry the virus, so it is still important to follow social distancing to help prevent transmission

### Face Coverings

- Must still be worn indoors where it is not possible to maintain a distance of 2 metres or in areas of high foot traffic.
- Be aware that some students will have an exemption to the face covering rule, e.g. students with Asthma (library users can request a card to ID their exemption if they would like to, otherwise face coverings should be worn in the library)
- Face coverings **are still required in the library** as a precaution since the majority of the student population remain unvaccinated.

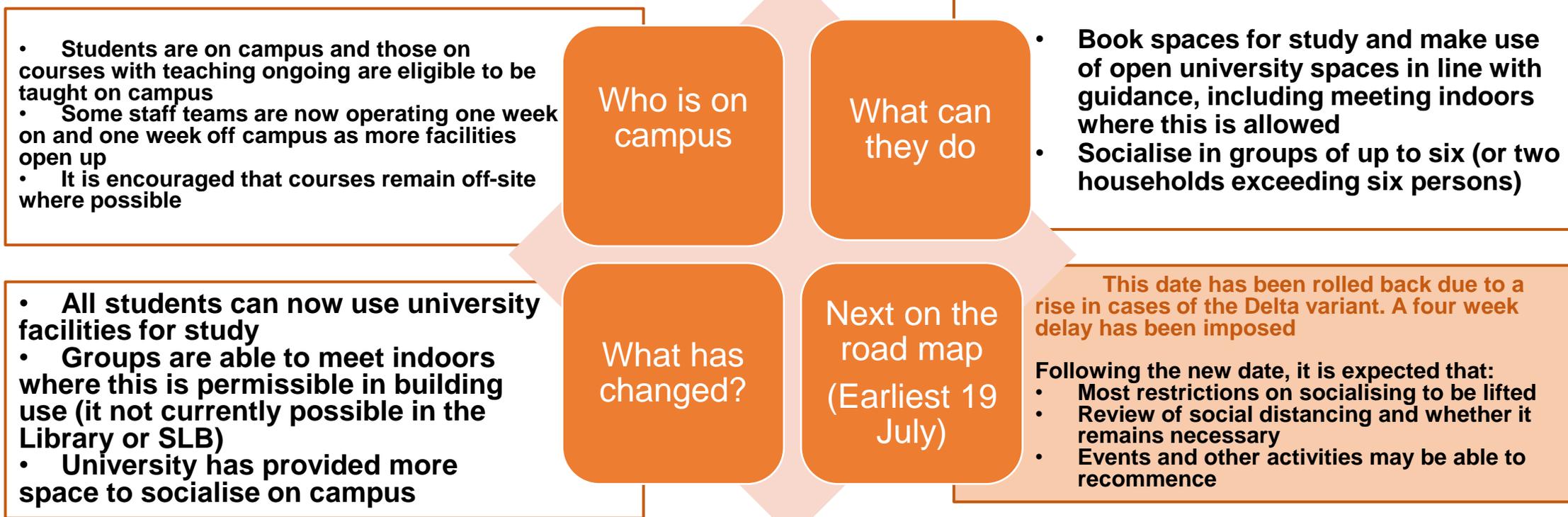
### Testing

- All students and staff are encouraged to take two LFD tests per week, either at home or on site. Students can collect LFD test kits from a range of localities
- The Asymptomatic Test Centre at TU is in University House and is open four days per week Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri
- A negative LFD test does not negate a period of self-isolation
- **The LFD Home Collect point** is now operating out of The Lounge in SLB. This is a drop-in service for staff and students to collect LFD kits to participate in mass testing. It is open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, 1000-1230 and 1330-1600

### Quarantine

- International students arriving to the UK are required to quarantine for 10 days upon arrival
- Students arriving from red list countries will need to quarantine in managed hotels. They should be directed to the government website for full details.
- Quarantining students can leave home to purchase essential items where they have no other option
- Quarantining students, and students who will be required to quarantine can request support and assistance through [studentwellbeing@tees.ac.uk](mailto:studentwellbeing@tees.ac.uk)

## What this means



## What is close contact?

- Face-to-face contact with someone less than 1 metre away (this will include times where you have worn a face covering or a face mask)
- Being within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
- Travelling in a car or other small vehicle with someone (even on a short journey) or close to them on a plane
- You should also identify all places you have visited, in the two days prior to onset of symptoms, that have a lot of people in them (for example, the University Library or a school or placement) even if face masks are worn (there are different rules for placements in healthcare settings)
- Hugging someone, though permissible now under the guidance, does count as close contact.

## What if I/someone I know has symptoms?

- Book a PCR test through the government website [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Self-isolate immediately, along with anyone in your household. Self-isolation is a period of 10 full days following the onset of symptoms in yourself, or someone you live with.
- A negative test result within the 10 day self-isolation period does not release you from self-isolation.
- **Failure to self-isolate for the full period can result in £1000 fine.**

## Asymptomatic Testing/ Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing

- This is routine testing available to all staff and students accessing the university. The asymptomatic test site is currently in University House.
- Asymptomatic testing is in place to identify cases of Covid-19 where there are no symptoms present. It is designed to stop these cases from spreading the virus further.
- A negative LFD test does not negate a self-isolation requirement.
- **A Home Collect point for LFD tests is available for University staff and students. Kits can be collected from [The Lounge, ground floor of the SLB in Campus Heart](#). One kit per person per visit. Site operates 1030-1230 and 1330-1600 on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.**

I've had my first dose of the vaccine. I'm safe and as the vaccination programme is going well, so are my friends.

- You are not fully vaccinated until two weeks after your **SECOND** dose of the vaccine. Until you have both doses, regard your vaccination as incomplete, it will offer some protection, but you must still be vigilant
- The Delta variant of Covid-19 is substantially more transmissible than other variants, even after one dose of the vaccine. People are also still at higher risk of contracting the Delta variant after one dose of the vaccine than with other variants of Covid-19. Two doses of vaccine are required to provide 'good' protection (This article which provides a good explanation [Vaccines are working – but these charts show why England is delaying reopening | Coronavirus | The Guardian](#))
- Your vaccination does not necessarily protect people who are not vaccinated. You need to take care on their behalf too.
- Although the vaccination programme is going well, it is not 'done'. Scientists warn that there are still many people (particularly those in unvaccinated groups and those with only a single vaccination) who are vulnerable to the disease.

The delay won't be for four weeks, we'll open up on 5 July and it only applies to people who aren't vaccinated anyway

- The new date for stage 4 of the roadmap is 19 July. Government ministers have indicated that although a midpoint review will take place on 5 July it is **EXTREMELY UNLIKELY** that this midpoint review will see an easing of rules.
- The four week delay is needed to get as many of the adult population vaccinated with at least one dose of the vaccine as possible.
- The restrictions that are still in place apply to everyone, whether they have had a vaccination or not.
- The delay is due to the prevalence of the Delta variant. This variant is more transmissible (40%-80% more transmissible) and can cause more serious disease ([Covid: Unvaccinated most at risk from Delta variant - BBC News](#))

I've had both doses of my vaccine and waited two weeks for it to take effect. I can't get Covid-19 now so I don't have to social distance

- The vaccines are effective for preventing severe disease and death. However, it is still possible to contract Covid-19 even after you have been fully vaccinated.
- It is also possible that you can still transmit the virus after vaccination, so you need to take care around people who have not been vaccinated and those who could be vulnerable.
- Increased transference can still occur via vaccinated people. This could increase the likelihood of a new variant emerging. Even if you are vaccinated, it is sensible to continue to take precautions and limit close contact.

Hugging is allowed and if I'm outdoors I don't need to wear a mask

- Whilst hugging is now permissible, the advice is that caution be exercised in the way in which we greet people and hugging should be limited to a small number of people to help keep transmission low.
- It is suggested it is safe to hug where both people are fully vaccinated, but it is still sensible to exercise caution and pay attention to local rates of transmission. If these are low, it may be safer to hug than if they are high.
- Meeting people outside is the safest way to socialise, but if it is busy or crowded (for example you are in a busy part of campus with people passing close by), then it is still best to wear a mask to protect yourself and others

If I am vaccinated, then it's safe to assume my friends are too

- Sometimes people may not have been vaccinated, or may not want to tell you if they have been, so you should not assume that everyone you have contact with is vaccinated just because you are.
- Asymptomatic, also called LFD, testing is a good way to minimise risk when meeting friends. We recommend you get tested twice a week to see if you have Covid-19. Staff and students can collect LFD test kits from the Lounge in SLB on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 1000-1230 and 1330-1600.

Everyone, from whatever age group, is now eligible to get a vaccination and you don't need an appointment to get your vaccination

- The vaccination programme has been accelerated where there has been a surge of the Delta variant of Covid-19. This includes places such as Bolton, Hounslow, North Tyneside and Leicester. All other areas of the UK are still following the national vaccination rollout plan. You can find more information on current eligibility for the vaccination programme here: [Book or manage your coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
- Some local councils, including Middlesbrough and Stockton, have started mobile vaccination centres, using buses to provide greater access to the vaccine. It is not always necessary to book an appointment to get your vaccine from these mobile clinics. Please check the local council websites for more information:
  - [NHS vaccination bus offers easier route to Covid-19 jabs | Middlesbrough Council](#)
  - [COVID-19 vaccination bus is coming to Stockton town centre - Stockton Council](#)