

Protocol for wearing face coverings in College

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Author: Senior Tutor and Bursar

In general, Sidney Sussex College remains closed to visitors and guests¹ as a result of the pandemic situation. Exceptions to this are set out in the [protocol for visitors and guests](#).

Please note that the information outlined in this protocol is subject to change and will be continually reviewed in accordance with the latest Government and University guidance.

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Introduction

College planning is centred on keeping our members and the wider community safe and well by reducing the risk of transmission through a series of protocols.

Current members and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines, and must carry and wear a face covering (unless exempt) at all times, in the situations set out in the General Information section below.

Discover more about the role of face coverings in reducing the transmission of COVID-19, information about those who are exempt from wearing face coverings, and related national guidelines on the [Government website](#).

This protocol will be continually reviewed as we move forward in line with the latest [Government COVID-19 guidance](#) and [University COVID-19 guidance](#).

¹ "Visitors and guests" refers to any individual who is seeking to visit the College and is not a current Sidney student, Fellow, other academic staff member, or staff member.



General information

Within the context of the third national lockdown which commenced on the 6 January 2021, and in line with the recent University statement on the same subject, the University and the Colleges expect all members of the Cambridge community to wear face coverings at all times in all indoor work or study settings, even if two-metre social distancing can be achieved. The only exceptions are when working in single occupancy rooms with closed doors, or when eating or drinking, or if the member has a medical exemption. Staff must carry a face covering at all times and wear it when required to do so by these regulations.

In the event that a current member or visitor has mislaid or forgotten to carry a face covering, they can be picked up and purchased from the Porters' Lodge. Current members are encouraged to keep a small stock of spare face coverings in their room or office.

For environmental reasons, all members of College are encouraged to wear reusable washable face coverings where possible, rather than disposable face coverings.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided to members who have high levels of contact with other members.

Where to wear face coverings

As mentioned above, members must wear face coverings at all times in all indoor work or study settings, unless in a single occupancy room with a closed door, or if they have a medical exemption. There are specific rules for wearing face coverings in external settings within the College grounds. For the avoidance of doubt, this means members must wear face coverings:

In any College building

When indoors in any College building which is not the member's personal living space, "household", or a single occupancy closed door room for work or study purposes.

In the Mong servery/dining hall or Sidney Bar

Note that you must wear a face covering at all times in the Mong Servery/Dining Hall and Sidney Bar, except when seated to eat or drink.

Household isolation

Students sharing a household with a symptomatic or COVID-positive student will be required to wear a face covering when moving around their accommodation area, and inside their kitchen, but not when within their own private room. COVID-positive students will be required to self-isolate as per the College's [Rules and support for self-isolation](#) and [Rules and support for quarantine in College](#) (accessible on Moodle).



In any external area **except** when socialising or exercising within government guidelines in the College gardens

Many external areas of the College have tight spaces and narrow passageways. To keep members and visitors as safe as possible and to help reduce the threat of transmission, face coverings must be worn in all external areas of College within the main site. The only exception to this is when socialising or exercising, within government guidelines, in the College Gardens (members must follow social distancing guidelines at all times). Note that face coverings must be worn whilst walking to and from the gardens.

For the avoidance of doubt this means that face coverings **must** be worn in the areas outlined below.

- On entering College through the front gate from Sidney Street, from Kings Street car park, or through the Jesus Lane entrance to Cloister Court.
- In all areas of Hall Court.
- In all areas of Chapel Court.
- In all areas of Cloister Court, unless socialising or exercising in the gardens (within the government guidelines, and following social distancing requirements).
- In all the paths around Blundell Court, Garden Court, South Court, Mong Hall, Sidney House, etc.

Summary

| ✓ REQUIRED | ✗ NOT REQUIRED |
|--|--|
| <p>✓ All College buildings and external areas</p> <p>Exceptions are noted in the next column.</p> | <p>✗ In your personal living space, “household”, or single occupancy closed door office work or study space (for Fellows, staff and students)</p> |
| <p>✓ Household isolation</p> | <p>✗ Socialising or exercising within government guidelines in the College gardens</p> |
| | <p>✗ In a dining area when eating or drinking</p> |