Households in Brasenose College

If you live in College accommodation that includes a shared bathroom/shower and/or toilet and/or kitchen area, then all the occupants that share these facilities constitute a ‘household’.

Please keep up to date with the evolving Government guidance on how to protect yourself and others from coronavirus and on what you can and can’t do in England as a result of the pandemic.

Take joint responsibility for keeping your room and shared facilities clean: By taking care of cleaning your own room and by cleaning shared facilities each time you use them you reduce the frequency of visits from housekeeping staff, keeping everyone safer.

Communal entrances to accommodation: Be aware of high-contact surfaces including door handles and stair bannisters in communal entrances. Wash your hands before leaving your household and immediately after returning.

Social distancing guidance in the College context

Please make every effort to minimise the likelihood of bringing infection back to your household by following these guidelines:

Stay alert to social distancing guidance when you are away from your household

Keep up to date with specific guidance for staying safe outside of your home. In general, follow all relevant signage in Colleges and maintain a two metre social distance from people outside of your household wherever possible. Note that you must wear a face covering on public transport and when attending medical facilities. Annex A provides advice on how to reduce risk where two metre distancing is not possible.

Practice frequent handwashing and good respiratory hygiene

Sneeze into a tissue and dispose of it hygienically, cover your mouth if coughing and wash your hands again. Use hand sanitizers where these are provided.

Exercise and recreation

Outdoors

Spend time outside, as frequently as you wish, for exercise. This can be done alone or with members of your existing household. You may also meet outside with up to six people from different households but retaining two metre social distancing.

Training and sports in groups of up to six is permitted. However, you must maintain two metre distance, minimise equipment sharing and exercise strict hand hygiene.
Indoors, public or communal venues

You can meet in groups of up to 6 people but you must observe social distancing at the venue. Do not interact socially with anyone outside the group you are attending the venue with. Remember to abide by face covering regulations.

Visitors to Colleges’ non-residential areas

Please keep visitors to the minimum necessary.

In general, outdoors in the College gardens, you may gather in a group of up to six people from different households but retaining two metre social distancing.

Always check with your host on local rules before visiting another College.

Visits to or from households in College accommodation areas

Visits from one household to another within college accommodation are allowed but the number of different households visited should be minimised and limited to within one accommodation site. Social distancing and the wearing of face coverings is required.

Overnight visitors from other households, particularly those from other colleges, increases the transmission risk so is not advised.

Students should get the consent of others in their household before inviting visitors from other households. If a student feels uncomfortable objecting to a particular visitor in person, they can email covid@bnc.ox.ac.uk to object anonymously. It is also advised that visitors from outside of your household do not use shared household facilities during their visit.

If you live in private accommodation then you are responsible for retaining a list of your visitors in the preceding 21 days for Test and Trace purposes.

Communicate with your household

There will be a variety of opinions and anxiety about the Covid-19 risk across and within households. Work as a household to minimise the number of visitors to your accommodation areas. It is important to avoid having visitors from multiple households visit your own household at the same time; consider using group-chats to coordinate visits – especially for larger households.

As part of a ‘social bubble’

Guidance on meeting people from outside your household allows, in theory, for a person living in a single person household to connect up with a second household (a ‘social bubble’) – enabling closer contact between individuals without social distancing. In the interests of safety and equity to all members of a shared College household, people living in College accommodation will not normally be allowed to operate social bubbles in this way. To do so might be unfair or lead to undue pressure on other members of a shared household since a
A social bubble is permitted to contain only two households in total. Further, all members of both households in the social bubble must isolate for 14 days if any member of either household becomes symptomatic.

**Staying with friends or relations away from Oxford**

Only do this when absolutely necessary. Only stay overnight away from your Oxford household with members of one other household (social distancing must be maintained) and keep a list of people you stayed with in the preceding 21 days for Test and Trace purposes. Undergraduates should discuss any planned Term time absence from Oxford with their Tutor in advance. [Local restrictions](#) may apply in some areas of the United Kingdom, where increased incidence of COVID-19 infection has been detected in the community. These restrictions typically apply for an indefinite period, but they are subject to regular review. You should not visit households in any of these areas while such restrictions apply.

Matt Hill  
Domestic Bursar  
Sept. 20
Annex A

**How COVID-19 is transmitted and how to reduce risks**

COVID-19 is transmitted in three ways:

1. **Direct person-to-person contact** - if an infectious person breathes droplets on you or you pick them up through physical contact with an infectious person.
2. **Contact with a contaminated surface** - if you touch a surface contaminated with the virus and then touch your nose, eyes or mouth, you may be infected.
3. **Aerosol transmission** - fine droplets of liquid containing virus are breathed out, form an aerosol and are carried through the air. You may become infected if you breathe these in.

If you are further away from someone there’s less risk of catching the virus from droplets or aerosol transmission. However, distance isn’t the only thing that matters.

- **Duration** - the longer you are close to an infectious person, the higher the risk.
- **Fresh air** - the risk is lower if you are outdoors, or in a well ventilated area,
- **Direction** - the risk is lower if you are not face-on with the infectious person

The risk of transmission is small at 2m and where possible, you should maintain 2m distance.

If it is not possible to keep 2m distance, reduce the risk to yourself and others at 1m by taking suitable precautions:

- Limit the number of people or households that you come into contact with
- Sit / stand side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them
- Meet people outdoors, rather than indoors
- Keep interactions brief
- Wear a face covering
- Increase ventilation
- Avoid loud talking or singing with others

To minimise the risk of transmission via surface contact, you should:
• Regularly wash your hands using soap and water or use hand sanitiser
• Avoid touching surfaces and do not touch your face
• Dispose of waste safely, including items such as paper face masks or gloves