



Apprentice / Employer Covid-19 Update - 04/01/2021

I wish you all a Happy New Year and hope you managed to have a good Christmas in these difficult times. We had hoped to be delivering classes with students in attendance from the start of term, however:

In accordance with the government's phased 'Return to learning provision required at the start of January', announced on 30 December we are required to deliver all classes remotely, until the 18th January.

I apologise for the short notice, but we were only informed that the new rules apply to apprenticeship training providers on 31st December.

We now hope to resume class attendance from 18th January, this is however subject to there being no further Government restrictions and our risk assessment determining it to be safe.

New cohorts for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care and Welfare at Stockport will commence as planned. Apprentices will receive a Zoom invitation from their tutor in advance of their first session which they should attend from home.

We ask new apprentices to check that they have the resources in place to access their classes remotely. Anyone with concerns should contact us.

We ask all apprentices, wherever possible, to keep their video on during class sessions when attending remotely. It is far better for both the tutor and the student to be able to see each other and interact during the session. If any apprentice has technical difficulties with this, please let your tutor know.

The Government has reaffirmed that apprenticeship delivery and assessment is extremely flexible and should continue to take place in person where doing so remotely is not possible. This includes training and assessment in the workplace.

Examinations are permitted to continue at both centres; students are advised to attend their planned examinations exams provided:

- The apprentice is not experiencing symptoms of covid-19
- The apprentice has not been in close contact with anyone displaying symptoms / tested positive of Covid-19.
- The apprentice has not been working at a practice or branch where there is anyone with Covid-19 symptoms / positive Covid-19 cases. Regardless of whether they have been in close contact.

Any apprentice who does not meet these requirements should contact their tutor to make suitable alternative arrangements.

Jackie Shopland-Reed
Head of Centre