

Dear colleagues,

On the 23 February, the Government published [COVID-19 Resilience & Recovery Plan - The Path Ahead](#), which is available to read on our COVID-19 SharePoint site.

The advice remains to work remotely unless the work is an essential service that cannot be done from home. This will continue to be the case after 5 April. Third level education is deemed an essential service and there are activities that need to happen on-campus. The Space Management Committee (SMC) continues to meet weekly to review and update our Return to Work Safely Protocols in line with current best practice.

Thank you for following the guidelines developed by UL, whether you are working remotely or on campus and for your feedback as we try to support you in both situations.

UL students were in the news last week with reports about the behaviour of a minority who continued to gather despite the current Level 5 restrictions. Professor Mey has written to all our students, reiterating that they are required to follow Public Health guidelines and to respect the communities where they are living.

Additional on-campus testing for UL students took place over the past few days and we continue to liaise with UL Student Life, the Post Graduate Student's Union and the HSE Mid-West in our communications to students. In addition, UL is now funding high visibility COVID-19 Garda patrols to be carried out in housing estates adjacent to UL, amounting to around 310 additional policing hours.

Out-of-hours Contact Information

As we have all come to know, in the current environment changes can happen quickly. Important COVID-19 information received out-of-hours (after 5pm on weekdays and over weekends) should be shared with the responsible personnel as soon as is practicable in order to ensure an appropriate and speedy response.

If you receive information out-of-hours which you believe the University is unaware of, please contact the UL Emergency Number 061 213333 or email covid19report@ul.ie and it will be passed to the relevant personnel.

Communications

On 10 February, HR Learning and Development ran a heavily subscribed communications webinar. Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing some of the contributions to the event, beginning today with the keynote speech from Helen Shaw. [Watch Helen give an introduction to digital storytelling by following this link](#). She outlines a template for finding and telling your story online, and shaping content-led conversations with your audience and community. Helen is an award winning content producer and CEO of digital media company Athena Media.

Speaking of communications and reaching your audience, if you want to take a few minutes out this week, you could do worse than check out our UL resident orchestra's (ICO) latest offering in their I Create Online series. [Watch Still, Hope by following this link](#).

Finally, this is the last weekly email from me. I am delighted to welcome our new Human Resources & Communications Director, Bobby O'Connor who joins us today and is now on the hook for these communications. (Over to you Bobby !!)

A UL graduate, Bobby brings a wealth of experience to the role from his previous position as Chief Executive of UniJobs. I wish him all the best and look forward to working with him into the future.

Have a good week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial letter 'A'.