

Why should I take part?

We aim to identify people who do not have Covid-19 symptoms but who are infectious and could spread the infection to others unknowingly. As many as one in three people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and may be spreading it without realising it. Identifying infectious people so they can self-isolate will help reduce the spread of the virus.

The lessons we learn will help us over time to reduce the impact of Covid-19 control measures, as well as reducing the spread of the virus and protecting vulnerable people, aiding our return to normality.

If I have no symptoms - why should I get tested?

With roughly a third of people who have coronavirus not showing symptoms, targeted asymptomatic testing and subsequent isolation is highly effective in breaking chains of transmission.

What is the test called?

The test is called lateral flow testing.

Lateral flow tests deliver a result in 30 minutes. If it is negative, students and staff will be able to carry on at college as usual.

If it is positive, then the person will have to isolate and get a second test that will be processed by Test and Trace in a laboratory.

Can you tell me more on lateral flow testing and its accuracy?

A lateral flow device (LFD) is a clinically validated swab antigen test that does not require a laboratory for processing and can turnaround rapid results within an hour at the location of the test.

Lateral flow tests (LFT) are validated technology, they are safe, and the results are trusted. These tests have undergone rigorous testing and evaluation including at Public Health England's research laboratories to ensure they are verified for use.

Lateral flow tests are highly specific, which means that only a very small proportion of people who do not have coronavirus will receive a positive result (false positive).

However, in mass testing, because so many people without symptoms are being tested there is still the possibility of getting a false positive result.

How does it work?

Lateral flow testing is designed to detect the level of virus in individuals who do not experience and show any symptoms (they are asymptomatic), but who could still be infectious and pass the virus to others.

By taking a test you will help to stop the spread of the virus, protect other people, and save lives.

Please do not attend if you have symptoms of Covid-19 (a cough, loss of taste or smell, or a high temperature). If you have any of these symptoms you should not come into college.

How do I book a test?

You will be sent details and contacted by either your tutor or progression coach on how to book your slot.

How many tests should I have?

In accordance with Government guidance, we strongly recommend that all students/staff take 3 tests, at least three days apart.

What happens if I don't take a test?

Tests are not compulsory and those that choose not to have the test can still come into college (when the college buildings re-open). Students and staff who don't take the tests must continue to follow the rules to stay safe in (and out) of college.

What if I have symptoms?

If you have any coronavirus symptoms you should not come into the college but should self-isolate immediately and arrange for a PCR test at your nearest testing centre.

What does the test involve?

The test involves a swab from your nose and throat that you take yourself. Your swab will then be tested by one of our on-site testing staff to determine the result. Staff will be available at the testing site to help and guide you.

Do the tests hurt?

No. They can be a bit uncomfortable but only for a few seconds. You perform the test yourself by swabbing the back of your throat and your nose.

What happens if I test positive?

Anyone whose test returns a positive outcome must:

- Self-isolate immediately, in accordance with Government guidance and must not travel.

You will receive further information on what to do along with your test positive result.

What if I test negative?

If your test is negative, you will be able to carry on studying in college.

Who will see my results?

Results for the LFD will be recorded onto the college tracking app as well as NHS track and trace, but the data is only kept for a minimum of 14 days and a maximum of 28 days on site.

If a close contact tests positive, do I have to self-isolate?

Yes, you will need to self-isolate for 10 days.