

Covid-19 Testing - Questions and Answers

What if a Student tests positive?

Participating students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test', which are done in local and regional testing sites on the same day (or as soon as possible). Students can visit www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. Those ordering a PCR test, should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test. The college will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home for anyone who is unable to get a test any other way.

Whilst waiting for the PCR result (via text / email) the student will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result the student will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

Students who have a negative result will be able to stay in college and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to college if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of college who will still need to self-isolate. Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if a student develops symptoms?

The testing programme at college is for people with no symptoms. If a student develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.