

Asymptomatic Testing in September 2021



In line with the Department for Education Schools Covid-19 Operational Guidance - which was updated in July 2021 - we will be offering on site lateral flow device (LFD) testing for all students during the first week of college in September. The test is carried out by self-swabbing. Those taking the test will be supervised by staff. These 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.

All college students should have the opportunity to take 2 on-site LFD tests, on their return in September 2021.

Why do pupils and students need to do 2 tests on site when they return in September?

Testing on return can help to reduce the risk of transmission and support the continuation of face-to-face education.

Is testing compulsory?

Testing is voluntary; however, we would strongly encourage everyone to join in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

Positive Cases

Students with a positive LFD test result must self-isolate in line with NHS Test and Trace guidance. They will also need to take a confirmatory PCR test to check if they have COVID19 (book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>). Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should continue to self-isolate. If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive lateral flow test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the student can return to college, as long as the individual doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms.

Close Contacts

From September, close contacts will be identified via NHS Test and Trace rather than the college. Contacts will only be traced where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact.

Home Testing

Following the two initial tests on site, students can collect 'test at home kits' from college reception and start testing at home, twice weekly.