

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

Dear Parent / Guardian,

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. This letter is to help give you more information about the testing programme in our college.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to college to be tested.

Plan for testing

Testing is available to students aged 19 and under and all staff. We are initially prioritising staff and students who are attending college during the national lockdown. In addition, any staff member or student who has come into contact with positive cases in our college can be tested daily for seven days to allow them to remain in college.

How the tests work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff and volunteers. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The college will inform the student of a positive test result. The student will also receive a text / email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system. Tests are free of charge and I enclose a leaflet with further information.

We recognise that the self-swabbing part of the test may cause significant concerns for some young people with SEND and their families. We would be happy to help alleviate some concerns by agreeing strategies to help reduce anxiety and putting in place any reasonable adjustments if required. If this is required please email us on covidsupport@sccb.ac.uk to arrange an informal discussion.

Parents and carers may want to [read the Mass Testing Guidance for Specialist Settings](#) for further information.

Consent

Because your son / daughter with SEND is under the age of 25, we need your consent in order to administer the tests. If you are happy to, please fill in online consent form (one per student) which can be found on the same webpage as this letter.

I have included some answers to frequently asked questions overleaf. We will support our students throughout, but please contact us if you need this information in any other language or format or if you have any questions. You can call us on 0121 694 5000 or email hello@sccb.ac.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mike Hopkins
Principal