



Testing for people without symptoms (Asymptomatic) – LFD testing

Learner Frequently Asked Questions

1) Why are we offering this testing programme to you as a student at Bolton College?

The Government have requested that Colleges offer asymptomatic (people without symptoms) testing to its students and staff.

Around 1 in 3 people who have COVID have no symptoms and will be spreading it without realising it. This is why it's important that you get a test. It will help protect you and those around you.

2) Who will be running the testing site and will it be safe?

The College has arranged for an external clinical health care company to do the tests. They have lots of experience and are fully trained, they have a Doctor.

3) What is a lateral flow device test (LFD)?

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests are quick tests that are processed on the College site without any need for sending samples to a laboratory. The staff at the test sites have received special training to carry out the processing. Results are ready very quickly – normally within 30 minutes to 1 hour.

4) Can members of the public, visitors, contractors, family members access the test?

No. At the current time the test is only for our students and staff.

5) Do I have to have the test?

No. Tests are voluntary but you are strongly encouraged to take part as this will help protect yourself, your families and friends, staff and students and help us bring the virus under control faster.

6) Should I have a test if I have Covid symptoms?

No. LFD tests are for symptom free people only. If you are experiencing Covid symptoms then you must continue to follow the current advice. You should obtain a PCR test via the national portal www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by ringing 119 and follow the isolation advice. **You must not enter the College or its testing site** if you have symptoms.

7) How accurate is the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test?

The tests are accurate and sensitive enough to be used in college for people who do not have symptoms. The LFD tests are good at picking up people who are highly infectious. No test is 100% accurate and as with all tests there is the potential to have a false positive or a false negative result.

8) Where and how can I get tested?

Our testing site is located in Diversity (main canteen area) at the Deane Road campus.

9) How can I book my test?

All bookings will be undertaken using our online booking site. As a learner you will have received an email with the booking link in it.

10) What are the current opening times?

Currently you will be able to book a test Monday – Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm. We will keep the timings under review and let you know if we feel we need to amend the openings times.

11) How often should I have a test?

The current advice is that as part of the return to college, we offer an initial mass testing programme. This means you can have 3 tests each being 3 days (or up to 5 days) apart.

12) Do I have to take the test in my own time?

Tests can be completed in your own time or if it's necessary during your class time. If the test takes place during your class please tell your tutor. The test will only take 10 minutes from start to finish so you will not miss too much class time.

13) Will the canteen be open?

No, but we will arrange a grab and go offer. Also food options are available in Foundation (B Block) and in Infusion (Costa coffee shop). If you are entitled to free college meals you will still be able to access these.

14) Should I have a test if I have previously had Covid?

Anyone who has previously received a positive test result for COVID does not need to be retested within a 90-day period and therefore does not require an LFD test. If you should develop any new symptoms of COVID-19 within the 90 day period, you will need to book a PCR test online www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phone on 119.

16) Should I continue testing after I have received the COVID vaccine?

Yes, you should continue to test even though you have had the vaccine.

17) Do I need to bring anything with me to the test?

You will be asked to show your student ID.

You will also need to bring a smart mobile phone / device to register for the test. For anyone who does not have access to emails or a phone, please let the staff know when you arrive at the test site and they will explain how to register for a test and how you will receive your results.

You will also be required to bring and wear a face covering and sanitise your hands on arrival.

18) What does a LFD test involve?

After booking online you will enter the testing site and you will be asked to register with your own device (mobile or tablet). If you do not have a 'smart' device the staff will help you.

In booking to take part in the testing you will be agreeing to sharing your data with the National Test & Trace programme and the College.

Taking the test - The test will involve taking a sample from the back of your throat (tonsils or tonsillar pits if you have had your tonsils removed) and then a sample from each nostril using a swab. You will be provided with a mirror to help identify the tonsils.

You will be asked to sanitise your hands before and after completing the test. Once you have obtained the sample you will then place your face covering back on and pass the sample to a member of staff. You will then leave the test site via the 'exit' route.

Anyone who is not able to take their own test will be helped by a member of trained staff.

19) Do I have to wait for the result before going back to class?

No. You do not need to wait for your test result. You must follow all Covid 19 guidance. You should receive your results in around 30-60 minutes depending on how busy the test centre is.

It is very important that you continue to follow all Covid safe guidance (social distancing, hand washing, use of face masks and covering as appropriate) even if you have a negative LFD result, no test is 100% accurate.

20) How will I be told about my test result?

You will get a text or an email from NHS Track and Trace using the contact details recorded by the staff member at the registration desk. For anyone who does not have a phone, test site staff will discuss how the results will be received.

21) What happens if the test is negative?

You will get a text/email from NHS Track and Trace. You can carry on with your day as planned, but it is important that you continue to follow the COVID measures (Hands, Face, Space) currently recommended for stopping the spread of the virus.

22) What happens if the test is positive?

You will get a text/email from NHS Track and Trace. IF the result is positive the College will take every step to contact you straight away. If you are in College you will be advised of the result and told to go straight home and to self-isolate for 10 days. You will be told how to get a further test (PCR test).

If you have left College, we will take every step to contact you.

Any positive results will also be shared with NHS Track and Trace and you will be advised of a positive result via this way too.

Anyone who is a contact of a positive case within the college (i.e. classmates/tutor) will also be contacted by college and advised to isolate as per the current guidelines.

Self-isolation is a legal requirement.

If you are positive everyone in your household will be a 'close contact' and must also self-isolate for 10 full days from the day following your positive test result.

23) What happens if the result is not clear?

You will get a text/email from NHS Track and Trace. In addition, the College will take every step to contact you. You should re-book another test. As a learner you will have received an email with the booking link in it.

24) If I am already a close contact of somebody who tested positive and have been asked to self-isolate, can I get a test so I can stop isolating and return to work?

No, you must continue to self-isolate. This test does not remove the need to self-isolate should you need to. Government self-isolation advice should be followed at all times.

Further questions?

Please contact your tutor or LDM.