

**APRIL 2021**

## **ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING Coronavirus (COVID-19) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges**

Rapid testing using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD)s will support the return to education by helping to identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms. For college staff and students we are moving to a home testing model (for students, following the first 3 on-site tests). The lateral flow devices used have received regulatory approval from the MHRA for self-use.. Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.

### **Home testing**

Both students and staff will be supplied with LFD test kits to self swab and test themselves twice a week at home. Staff and students must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the home test kit. Staff and students must also share their result, if positive, with college to help with contact tracing. Students should do this via the student Absence Reporting form.

Students aged 18 and over should self-test and report the result, with assistance if needed. Adolescents aged 17 or under should self-test and report with adult supervision. The adult may conduct the test if necessary.

Staff or students with a positive LFD test result will need to self-isolate in line with the 'stay at home' guidance. They will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result if the test was done at home. Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend college and use protective measures, unless they have individually been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact). They should continue to apply the measures in the system of controls to themselves and the wider college setting.

### **Symptomatic testing**

The asymptomatic testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), should still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines.

Those with symptoms are also expected to order a test online or visit a test site to take a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to check if they have the virus.

For further information – students and parents/carers should check the website:

<https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/the-college/covid-19-important-updates/information-for-current-students-2021>