

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

### ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 TESTING

#### Why am I being tested for Covid-19?

The government has asked all colleges to test students for Covid-19 when they start or return to College in September. This is to help identify people that have the virus but have no symptoms so that they can self-isolate and help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

#### If I refuse to do a Covid-19 test, can I still go into class/lessons?

We strongly encourage you to take up this offer. It will help us to keep you and others safe on campus.

Students can still attend college/UCEN Manchester if they don't take a test, however, we would hope that students do recognise how important it is to keep everyone safe on campus.

### ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 SELF TESTING

#### Do students have to self-test at home in September?

The government is asking students to continue with the regular self-testing at home (every 3-5 days) until the end of September when it will be reviewed.

#### Where should I collect my self-testing kits from?

We will give you self-testing kits when you go for your on-site test at the start of term. After that, you can get them from any of our libraries.

Our libraries are open from 08:30-16:30 Monday-Thursday and 08:30-16.00 on a Friday.

If you are an evening student, you can collect your test kits from the reception at each site. As a reminder you can find opening times for specific campuses via our locations page here: [Our Manchester Campus locations | tmc.ac.uk](#)

#### Can I collect a self-testing kit if I have not been tested on site at one of the test centres?

Yes. However, the Government would prefer you to have had a supervised test on site first. If you have not had a supervised test on site, you should read and follow the guidance we have provided below and watch the video before you undertake your first self-test.

#### How do I take the tests?

Two tests should be taken at home each week before coming to College. You should ideally leave 3-5 days between each test. The best time to test is in the morning before you come to College/UCEN Manchester, or, if you don't have time, the night before.

You can watch a guide to testing here: [Step by step guide to COVID-19 self-testing - YouTube.](#)

Resources on how to do the test can also be found here: [COVID-19 self-test help - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). The guides are also available in different languages by following this same link.

You can find an easy to follow guide here: [COVID-19 self-test instructions](#)

The self-testing kits that we have been provided with by the Government are antigen Lateral Flow Devices self-testing kits. The devices provide a result in 30 minutes without the need for a laboratory.

If you need help to take the test, you can ask someone to support you.

### **I am under 18 years old, can I do the test myself?**

Yes. If you are under 18 years old you can self-test and report, with adult supervision if needed.

### **What if I cannot do the test myself?**

If you need help to take the test, you can ask someone to support you.

### **What do I do if I have any problems with the test?**

#### *Clinical/Medical issue*

If during, or shortly after, taking the test you have any clinical/medical issue that causes you concern and you suspect to be a side-effect of the test, you should [report it here](#). If you require medical attention you should call 999 in an emergency or 111 for non-urgent issues. Please note that side effects are extremely uncommon.

#### *Non-clinical issue*

If any kit you receive is damaged, missing components, difficult to use or you can't report your results via the online portal please dial 119 to report it.

Please do not contact the College about problems with the test, as the Government has advised that it will take responsibility for this as indicted above.

### **How do I report my results?**

When you have the result of your self-test, you will need to report your result (positive, negative or void) to the NHS test and trace system, [through this online form](#). Please log your centre as **LTE Group** as this covers The Manchester College and UCEN Manchester.

### **Why can I not find The Manchester College or UCEN Manchester when I try to log my results?**

Please log your centre as **LTE Group** as this covers The Manchester College and UCEN Manchester – as below:

### **What's the name or postcode of the school or college?**

Enter the name of the school or college or its postcode and select from the options provided.

Name or postcode of school or college

Enter 3 or more characters

<b>LTE Group</b>
LTE Group (M11 2WH)
Lte Group (M11 2WH)

**Continue**

You must also share your result with the College/UCEN Manchester using this form: [REPORT YOUR RESULTS](#).

### **What do I do if I test positive?**

If your test result is positive on a lateral flow device, you should start isolating straight away and book for a [PCR test via the NHS](#). NHS Test and Trace will then work you to identify close contacts.

More information on contact tracing from 16 August is available here. [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

If your PCR test is negative (you do not have Covid-19), you can therefore to College and anyone you live with who needed to self-isolate can stop.

### **What do I do if my test is void?**

If you receive a void result you should do another test from your pack. If you receive two void results you should arrange for a PCR test via the NHS.

### **How do I dispose of my used test?**

You should dispose of your used test kit in your general waste bin.

### **Do I need to give consent?**

By opening the test kit you have given consent to be tested. No additional consent is required.

### **As I am studying at College, can people I live with get lateral flow tests?**

Yes. Members of your household can now either: book a test at a local test centre; collect home-testing kits from local collection points or order home test kits on-line.

### **Should I still take part in the asymptomatic testing programme if I have recently tested positive for COVID-19?**

The Government guidance states that:

- If you have tested positive by a PCR test for COVID-19, you will probably have developed some immunity to the disease. However, it cannot be guaranteed that everyone will develop immunity, or how long it will last. It is possible for PCR tests to remain positive for some time after COVID-19 infection
- Anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19
- If, however, you do have an antigen LFD test within 90 days of a previous positive COVID-19 PCR test, for example as part of a workplace or community testing programme, and the result of this test is positive, you should self-isolate.

### **Should someone who has been vaccinated take a lateral flow device test?**

Yes. The vaccine does not interfere with the antigen LFD or PCR tests.

## **OTHER COVID-19 QUESTIONS**

### **What if I have been in close contact with someone in College who tests positive?**

You will be notified by NHS Track and Trace if you are a close contact and they will tell you what you need to do.

### **What if I have Covid-19 symptoms?**

This testing programme at College is for people with **no symptoms**. If anyone 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 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

### **Q. Do I have to wear a face covering in College?**

Face coverings will no longer be a requirement for students, staff and visitors in **classrooms** from 23 August, but they should be worn in communal areas and where close contact cannot be avoided. Students may choose to wear one at all times if they wish.

For some courses which involve close contact like hairdressing or beauty therapy, or for activities like singing you may need to continue to wear a face covering in order to comply with Government guidance. Your tutor will let you know if this is the case.

### **If I have vulnerable parents / relatives who live with me, do I have to attend college or can I work online?**

The Government guidance says that people who live with someone who is extremely vulnerable can attend work or College so you should continue to follow your timetable. If you have concerns then please talk to someone from the student experience team, or your achievement tutor.

### **I am clinically extremely vulnerable, should I still attend College?**

All clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) students should attend college, unless you are under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by your clinician or other specialist not to attend.

Please let your tutor/achievement tutor know though if you are clinically extremely vulnerable and we will support you with additional controls if they are required as a result of your condition.

### **I am pregnant, should I still come to College?**

You should speak to your midwife before attending College.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has published the following information for pregnant women and their families: [guidance and advice on COVID-19 and pregnancy from the Royal College of Gynaecologists](#).