

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

 South Devon College

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## NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 Testing for Students

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

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 devices'. 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 reduce the spread in College through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those attending College to be tested.

Students attending College will initially be tested twice, with 3 / 5 days between tests where possible. Any student who has come into contact with positive cases in our College will 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. The lateral flow device 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. As a College we will inform the student of a positive result. The staff member will also receive a text/email notification of a positive or negative result from the online NHS system.

### What if someone tests positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device test, they will be informed immediately by South Devon College and will need to take a further 'PCR test' to confirm the result. This should be on the same day or as soon as possible afterwards. The College will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home.

During this time, whilst you wait for the PCR result via text/email you will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result, you will have to continue to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.



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## What happens if the test is negative?

While a small number of participants may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, participants who test negative will be able to stay in College and resume their activities as normal. Participants will be informed of negative test results via text/email. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

## What if staff or students have been in close contact with someone in College who tests positive?

The staff member or student will be notified that they are a close contact by the College. If close contacts agree to be tested each day for a maximum period of 7 days, and they test negative every time, they will be allowed to remain in College each day. There may be instances where close contacts are also contacted by NHS Test and Trace. In this instance they should notify NHS Test and Trace that they are a close contact through College and are participating in daily contact testing.

If staff or students do not want to take the tests, they will need to self-isolate following national guidelines. The option of daily testing does not apply to household members or close contacts of a positive case outside of College, who will still need to self-isolate.

## What if staff or students develop symptoms?

**The testing programme at South Devon 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>.

We will support our staff and students throughout the testing process, but please contact your tutor if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your support.

Kind regards

**Laurence Frewin**  
Principal and CEO



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