

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 three times, with 3 / 5 days between tests where possible.

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. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed. 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 pupil tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days. and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

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.



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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 and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

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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