

## Oxford University Early Alert Service: testing for COVID-19 (STUDENT)

The University's in-house Testing for COVID-19: Early Alert Service (EAS) is now open to all students of the University and colleges, providing rapid access to free testing if they think they have [coronavirus symptoms \(minor or major\)](#).

The central testing site in the city centre is the first to open, and is located in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ). A second testing site at the Old Road campus in Headington is scheduled to open in September when students begin returning to Oxford for the new academic year.

Testing for COVID-19: Early Alert Service (EAS) is a free, customised service for students of the University that will benefit the local community by reducing the risk of a further COVID-19 outbreak and reducing the pressure on NHS testing facilities. Designed specifically for a University environment, the service will ensure that students who become unwell are quickly identified, with a rapid response initiated to protect others from transmission. The service is aligned with NHS and PHE guidelines and uses proven technologies and standard NHS procedures.

You need to self-isolate in the following instances:

- **If any member of a household has symptoms of COVID-19:** all members of the household must self-isolate in line with NHS and government guidance (go to the [NHS website](#) to find out how long to self-isolate for).
- **While you wait for your test and results:** you and the rest of your household must self-isolate until you have the results of your test. The University testing service will aim to provide results within 24 hours of the test.
- **If the result is positive:** you and your household must continue to self-isolate (go to the [NHS website](#) to find out how long to self-isolate for) in case any members are also incubating the virus.
- **If one member of a household is identified as a close contact of a confirmed case but is asymptomatic:** only that member needs to self-isolate, and should socially distance themselves from other household members. They should only get a test if they develop symptoms. They should self-isolate for 14 days from the date of last contact with the confirmed case – even if they receive a negative test result. If they go on to develop symptoms, then at that point the whole household needs to self-isolate.

### Why should I use this service and not the NHS?

The test we use is provided by the NHS. The main advantages of the University service are that: a) the swab will be done by someone trained and experienced in swabbing, so the result may be more accurate; 2) your college will be informed about the result, so can take rapid action to support you and protect others when necessary. You may also find that we can offer you a more rapid and convenient appointment for testing.



### **Who is eligible to use the service?**

Any student at the college may use the service who has a University card and an SSO (Single Sign On) password

### **Can I book a test if I don't have symptoms but am worried I might be at risk?**

The [three main symptoms that NHS guidance](#) asks you to look out for are high fever, a new continuous cough and loss of taste or smell. Most people with COVID-19 have at least one of these.

**You should not book a test if you have no symptoms. You should only book a test if you have any of the primary symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, persistent cough, loss of taste or smell).**

### **Testing for household members and close contacts**

If you are a household member or a recent close contact of someone who has tested positive, you can only get a test if you have one of the main COVID-19 symptoms. This applies to both the NHS and the University's own testing service.

A negative test does not release you early from the mandatory 14-day self-isolation period because of the ongoing risk that you are incubating the virus. This is consistent with Government guidance for the wider population.

### **Where is the testing service?**

The central testing site is in the city centre at the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter (ROQ).

Booking is done online at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus/health/covid-testing>. You will need to sign in using your SSO, and you will need to be on a University network, Oxford eduroam or VPN. You will need to complete a booking form, giving your personal details, and confirm that you have symptoms that you feel could be due to COVID-19 infection. You will be given a choice of times and, if both testing centres are open, a choice of locations.

You can cancel a test online. If you want to change the time, simply cancel and rebook.

### **Can I just turn up?**

For safety reasons, and to manage demand, we ask that you use the online booking service. You will not be seen if you attend the testing sites without an appointment.

### **Do the testing centres have wheelchair access?**

Yes, there is ramp access to both entry and exit doors and a bell to press for the door to be opened.

### **How should I travel to the site?**

The two University testing centres are pedestrian or bicycle access only. If you are too unwell to walk or travel by bicycle to the testing centre you should seek NHS help, either by contacting your own GP, phoning 111 or in an emergency phoning 999. You should not travel to a testing centre by public transport.



### **Will I have to self-isolate if I book a test?**

Yes, if you book a test it indicates that you are concerned that you may have COVID-19 and should self-isolate until you receive the result. If you have one of the three main symptoms of COVID-19 listed above (high fever, new continuous cough or loss of taste or smell), other members of your household should also self-isolate.

### **What happens at the testing centre?**

Your mouth and nose will be swabbed. This is a bit unpleasant but you will be given an opportunity to discuss any concerns in advance, and the person conducting the swab will stop immediately if you raise your arm to indicate you are experiencing undue discomfort.

Except in periods of very high demand for testing, after the swab you will have a consultation with a nurse or senior medical student. They will ask you about your exposure to proven cases of COVID-19, your current symptoms (giving you advice about what to do if your symptoms worsen), and advise you how to make a list of possible close contacts so you can be ready to give it to the public health team responsible for contact tracing if you test positive.

### **How long do I have to wait for the results?**

We will make every effort to provide results within 24 hours of testing.

### **What is a close contact?**

A close contact is anyone who has had face-to-face contact (less than 1m distance) with an infected person in the 48 hrs before the onset of symptoms up to 10 days from the onset of symptoms, or spent more than 15 minutes within 2 metres of an infected person in the 48 hrs before the onset of symptoms up to 10 days from the onset of symptoms.

Because government guidelines do not require social distancing to be maintained within a 'household', all members of an infected person's household are automatically deemed to meet the definition of close contact.

### **What happens if I am advised that I am a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?**

If you're told to self-isolate because you've been in contact with a person who has coronavirus:

- self-isolate for at least 14 days from the day you were last in contact with the person – as it can take up to 14 days for symptoms to appear
- do not leave your household for any reason – if you need food or medicine, order it online or by phone, or ask friends to help
- try to avoid contact with anyone you live with as much as possible –maintain social distancing
- people you live with do not need to self-isolate if you or they do not have symptoms
- You may be advised to get a test **but you should not book a test unless you are advised to, or have any of the 3 main symptoms**
- You **will** need to continue to self-isolate for at least 14 days even if you receive a negative test result, as the virus may not be detectable yet – this is crucial to avoid unknowingly

spreading the virus. You will be advised by the testing service if you need to take a further test

### **Wearing a face covering in your household area when self-isolating**

When you are not self-isolating, you are currently not required to wear a face covering in your household area when going from your room to the shared toilet or kitchen.

If you are self-isolating in a household that shares common access with other areas – this will be particularly relevant to main site where there are staff offices or multiple households on some staircases – then you must wear a face covering (unless you are exempt – see the University face covering policy) in communal corridors when accessing toilet or kitchen facilities within your household. This is to protect other members of the Wadham community who are not in your household, but may need to pass through shared access routes.

### **Support and supplies whilst self-isolating**

When you are self-isolating you should keep in regular contact by remote means with your friends - and the welfare team, if required. It is generally a good idea to check in with a friend once or twice a day.

If you have arranged for the college or friends to drop off supplies to you during your period of self-isolation then you should arrange for supplies to be left outside your door, for the person delivering to knock on the door and stand 2m back and wait for a verbal acknowledgement from behind the closed door. The person delivering supplies can then leave and you can open your door to pick up the supplies.

Medication should not be left unattended and if someone is delivering medicine to you then it is acceptable to open the door to retrieve the items whilst the person making the delivery is still there, so they can witness you receiving the items. Face coverings should be worn and social distancing maintained throughout.

## Student COVID-19 reporting procedure

1. If you or someone in your household develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or you have been told to self-isolate by a doctor or NHS 111 then you should stay in your household accommodation or wherever you are currently located (for example if you have travelled home) and follow government advice on self-isolation. Please refer to these web sites for further information:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> and  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>
2. Contact the Lodge with the following information as soon as possible giving:
  - a. the **start date** of your self-isolation and;
  - b. advise whether you are self-isolating because you have developed the symptoms, a member of your household has developed the symptoms or you have been told to self-isolate by a doctor or NHS 111;
  - c. where you are living and in which household number;
  - d. where you are currently located (if you have travelled away from College)
3. Depending on where you are living:
  - a. If you are living in college accommodation then the college will contact members of your household to advise them they will need to self-isolate pending the test result.
  - b. If you are living outside of college accommodation then you should contact your household members to advise them to self-isolate as the college may not have access to this information.
  - c. If you are living in college accommodation, but are currently away, then you will be asked to self-isolate wherever you are at the time of the self-isolation period starting.

No member of the household should leave their accommodation area during self-isolation, this includes leaving to exercise.
4. The college will contact household members to advise them on arrangements for catering and remind them that welfare support is available remotely through the usual channels. If you are living in College accommodation, Housekeeping will provide cleaning materials for the household to clean for themselves during the period of self-isolation. If you are living on the main site you will be able to purchase 3 meals a day for contactless delivery. Any emergency maintenance issues should be reported to the Lodge immediately.
5. If you are symptomatic then you should self-isolate, stay away from your household members and should only use any shared facilities when they are not being used by others. Other members of your household are able to continue to interact with each other without social distancing whilst they do not have any symptoms but must also refrain from leaving the household accommodation. You should login through your Single Sign On (SSO) and book a test through the University Early Alert Service (EAS) -  
<https://www.ox.ac.uk/coronavirus/health/covid-testing> and book and attend a test at the earliest opportunity. You should email [pan@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pan@wadham.ox.ac.uk) to inform the college of your test date and time. You should attend the test and are permitted to leave your household to do so. You should maintain social distancing at all times and not use public transport. You should not visit any other locations and should return to your household immediately afterwards, where you should stay away from your household and your household should continue to self-isolate as a group pending the result.
6. You should follow the usual absence reporting procedures if you are due to attend any face-to-face teaching.
7. Whilst you await the test result **you will be asked by the college to put** together a list of close contacts as per the definition of 'close contact' in readiness should the information be required by PHE or the College. You may wish to notify close contacts that you are awaiting test results and that they should stay alert for possible symptoms.
8. You will receive a result from EAS via the contact details you provided. EAS will also forward your test result to the college.

9. If you receive a NEGATIVE test result then EAS will contact you (normally by email to your Wadham account) and you should also send your test result to the college. The college will advise the household that they can cease their self-isolation. *Note: you may be asked to retake a negative test, in which case the household should continue to self-isolate until the results of the second test are returned.*  
**It is important that you and your household continue to self-isolate until you are advised by the college to stop self-isolating, as there may be other members of the household who are symptomatic or awaiting test results who, for confidentiality purposes, may not be known to you at the time.**
10. **If you receive a POSITIVE test result then the EAS will email you and the college with the result of the test.** You and your household will need to continue to self-isolate. You will be contacted by Public Health England. EAS will also inform the college and your household members directly, both to try to ensure that you and your household members have the support you need and to initiate a rapid response to minimise the risks to others. You should also contact the Lodge to advise them you have received notification of a positive test result, or if you have received a test result via the NHS testing service.
11. If you receive a positive test result then you will continue to self-isolate for at least 10 days from onset of symptoms, or until symptom-free, whichever is later; your household continues to self-isolate for at least 14 days from the onset of symptoms. The college will contact members of the household to advise them they will need to continue to self-isolate for at least 14 days
12. The College **will** ask you to provide a list of **people** that you have been in close contact with within the past 48 hours to start to contact people on that list.
13. The college will contact the household to advise on catering, cleaning and welfare provision.
14. At the end of the self-isolation period the college will contact you to advise that the self-isolation can cease.

In case you have to go into isolation, you are advised to maintain a small supply of food in the fridge in your room in case you require anything to eat/drink while arrangements are being made for any college food deliveries to be made.

### What happens if I test negative?

If you test negative, you will receive this result electronically and should contact the Lodge and [pan@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:pan@wadham.ox.ac.uk) with your test result.

**It is important that you and your household continue to self-isolate until you are advised by the college to stop self-isolating, as there may be other members of the household who are symptomatic or awaiting test results who, for confidentiality purposes, may not be known to you at the time.**

You AND your household can stop self-isolating except in the following circumstances:

1. You continue to have a high fever, cough and loss of smell **even if you have received a negative test** – in which case you must continue to [self-isolate following government guidelines](#) (if you also have diarrhoea or vomiting, self-isolate for 48 hours after these symptoms have subsided).
2. You are at high risk of a false negative result because of the timing of your test (it was within five days of exposure to a proven case of COVID-19). You will need to continue to self-isolate and book another test, **if advised to do so by EAS or NHS.**
3. Another member of your household has symptoms or becomes symptomatic, is awaiting test results or receives a positive test result.

In the following circumstances **you must continue to self-isolate** and only your household members can stop self-isolating:

1. You are a known close contact of a proven case – in which case you must continue to self-isolate for at least 14 days from last contact with a person who is a confirmed positive case – even if you have a test and the result is negative, as the virus may not yet be detectable on the test.
2. You are in self-isolation because of government quarantine requirements on arrival from overseas – in which case you must continue to do so until the end of the instructed period. A negative test does not release you from these quarantine requirements as you could still be incubating the virus.

### What happens if I test positive?

If you test positive, a clinician will telephone you. You and your household will need to continue to self-isolate. You will be contacted by Public Health England. The college will also be informed of the result, both to try to ensure that you have the support you need and to initiate a rapid response to minimise the risks to others. The college will continue to liaise with you and household members to advise on arrangements for catering, welfare and cleaning.

If your symptoms worsen then you should contact the Lodge as well as 111 or 999 if necessary

HOUSEHOLD ISOLATION				
Day	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
1				
2				
3	Becomes unwell and starts 10-day self-isolation and 14 days for the rest of the household		Asymptomatic	
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11	Isolation ends			
12				
13		Isolation ends		
14				
15			Isolation ends	
16				Becomes unwell and starts 10-day self-isolation
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				Isolation ends