

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

COVID-19 Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test Information and Consent Document

NOTE: IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 (WHICH INCLUDE A HIGH TEMPERATURE, NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH OR A CHANGE TO YOUR TASTE OR SMELL) YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEND FOR THIS TEST AND INSTEAD SHOULD SELF ISOLATE AND BOOK A SWAB TEST THROUGH THE NHS.

IF YOU ARE QUARANTINING OR IN SELF ISOLATION AS A CLOSE CONTACT YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEND FOR THIS TEST.

1. SUMMARY

Covid-19 testing

We are inviting students and staff who are on campus to have a test for COVID-19. Because we need your permission to carry out this test and to hold some personal information about you, including the test results. It is important that you understand what the test involves and why we are doing it.

Please take time to read this document and ask if you have any questions about it. It includes information in four parts: this summary; information about the test; what happens to your personal data; and a consent form that you should sign if you agree to taking the test.

Why are we offering this test?

The University wants to do all it can to keep staff, students and visitors safe while on campus. Testing those on campus is one of the many proactive measures we are taking to help us to identify any spread of the coronavirus among our community. Testing will help us to identify at an early stage anyone who is potentially infected with the virus, whether or not they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus infection. We can then ask these individuals to self-isolate to prevent further infection being passed on to others.

We need to collect your information so that we know if you have had one of the tests, and the result of your test..

NHS Test and Trace

As you are probably aware the Government are keen for all students and staff at universities to leave the university during the vacation should they wish to do so. In order for this to be done safely, The University of Essex is working with NHS Test & Trace to set up asymptomatic testing sites (ATS) so that students and staff can be offered the NHS test and trace approved Lateral Flow tests.

Do I have to have a test?

The test is entirely voluntary, however, all students and staff are urged to get tested to help protect themselves and keep their friends, families and home communities as safe as possible when returning home this Christmas.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or a member of your household is, please self-isolate in line with government and NHS guidance.

For support and further information please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Everyone on campus is asked to follow government guidance and our COVID safe rules while on campus whether or not they have been tested.

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

COVID-19 Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test Information and Consent Document

What are the risks?

The antigen test involves taking a swab from the back of your nose or throat (using a mini-tip swab stick). This may feel a little uncomfortable and can trigger physical reactions such as eye watering and gagging but should not be painful.

The nurses who will be taking the swab from you will be wearing personal protective equipment; there will be space to socially distance in the test area, which is regularly sanitised.

No test is 100% accurate and this test has limitations including, but not limited to, variable results in anyone who is immunosuppressed. The antigen test may not accurately detect COVID-19 antigens at later stages of infection

Who is carrying out the tests?

The tests are being carried out on our behalf, by trained clinicians who are employed by Nurseplus.

You can also administer your own swab under instruction from Nurseplus staff. You should request this on the consent form and inform the reception desk of your intention to complete your own swab test.

What happens after the test?

If your test result is positive you will be told by the Nurse, University or the NHS to self-isolate to protect other people and prevent you passing the infection on. **Please note: if your test is positive then the individuals you live with should also self-isolate (but they can self-isolate at another destination, only after they have been tested and had confirmation of a negative antigen or PCR test).**

You will be asked about your close contacts via the University and the NHS test and Trace Service

You wish to give feedback following your test?

We do conduct regular surveys to ensure that we are providing a good service but if you have feedback regarding your test please email covid19@essex.ac.uk

2. THE TEST

Voluntary Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test

This test is designed to detect antigen from the Covid-19 infection in nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs from persons who may be infected with coronavirus or who are asymptomatic with the coronavirus. Both these people are likely to be an infectious source.

The swab test looks for genetic material specific to the COVID 19 virus. This test is carried out by taking a swab from the back of the throat and the nose using a long cotton bud. The swab is then mixed with a solution in a tube for about a minute once droplets of the specimen are then put onto a cassette and mixed with an agent the results are ready in 20 – 30 minutes after they have been put onto the cassette.

Your Test Results

The result of your ANTIGEN Swab Test is shared anonymously by bar code to the local health protection service and Public Health England as part of the NHS test and trace programme. You will be texted your result from NHS test and trace, the University will also be able to inform you of your

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

COVID-19 Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test Information and Consent Document

result, once the university has the result we will be able to give you bespoke advice regarding next steps and isolation.

There are 3 types of result you can get:

- **Positive** - A positive result indicates the presence of Covid 19 viral antigens, If your test is positive, you must self-isolate immediately if you are not already doing so.

Anyone you live with must self-isolate for 14 days from when you start self-isolating. **Individuals you live with can self-isolate at another destination only if they have a negative antigen or PCR swab test before they travel to their chosen destination.** You will be contacted by the University for information to support the track and trace process as well as the NHS test and Trace Programme to assist to identify close contacts.

- **Negative** - A negative result does not necessarily rule out Covid-19 infection, particularly if you have been in contact with the virus, these swabs are only likely to detect the live virus between 3-5-day incubation.

If you have a negative result you will be invited back for a second test three days after you first test, this is to check that you had not been incubating the virus or that the test was a false negative.

You will only need to self-isolate if you feel unwell or you live with someone who has symptoms or have been told to self-isolate by NHS test and trace as you are a close contact.

If you are aware that you have been in close contact with someone who has the virus you will be asked to go online to book for an NHS PCR test.

If you develop Covid symptoms you will be asked to go online to book for a NHS for a PCR test.

- **Invalid**
An invalid result is likely to be caused by insufficient specimen volume or incorrect procedural techniques. It is recommended that the test is repeated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

If you have a positive result where you have been told to self-isolate by the University or by the NHS test and trace programme it is important that you follow that guidance. This is because you may be infectious and could pass the infection on to others. You must not attend the University campus where this is the case, and provision can be made for you to continue your studies or work virtually.

What will happen to my information?

We have written a separate privacy policy to explain how we use the information from your test.

To carry out the test and report on it we will need to collect:

- Your name;

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

COVID-19 Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test Information and Consent Document

- Your date of birth
- Your contact details;
- Your consent to take the test or your refusal to take the test;
- The type of test taken; and
- Your results following the test being taken

The lawful basis that we will collect this information on is consent, which is why we are asking you to fill out the consent form. If you decide not to have a test we will record that on the basis of our legitimate interests. Your personal data will be processed in accordance with our privacy notice and this supplemental notice.

We will share your personal data with ICS, NHS test and trace as deemed appropriate and as set out below.

If your test result is positive ICS will share this data with the University.

Use of your information

The NHS test and trace provides further information in their [Privacy Notice](#) which sets out how an individual's personal data is collected and used when participating in the testing programme, as well as further information about the programme itself. They use a barcode system to register your test and to share the results with you via text and email.

Positive test results:

Where you have a positive test result, ICS will share this data with the University.

We will use your personal data:

- To help us to identify any known spread of the coronavirus among our community, by identifying this at early stage.
- To help to find out if anyone is potentially infected with the virus, whether or not they are displaying symptoms.

Your results and contact details will be shared externally with NHS Test and Trace and, where appropriate, Public Health England.

Data will also be shared with Public Health England and within the University.

Negative test results:

Where you have a negative test result ICS will share this data with the University.

We will use your personal data:

- To help us to identify any known spread of the coronavirus among our community.

Data will also be shared with Public Health England and within the University.

Refusal to take a test

Where you have refused to take a test, we will use your personal data:

UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX
COVID-19 Innova SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Qualitative Test Information and
Consent Document

- To help us to identify any known spread of the coronavirus among our community.

Retention

We will retain your personal data used for these purposes for 6 years. Your test results will be retained for 6 years.