

Common Questions

Not getting a test

1. *I thought that the COVID test was optional?*

Testing is voluntary but strongly encouraged as part of the Government programme, to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. It is an important part of our approach to keeping our staff and students safe on site during the global pandemic.

2. *If I opt not to take the test, do I have to report this somewhere?*

No, it will be clear to us in our tracking and records.

3. *Can I still attend College if I do not get a test?*

We need to ensure that we are able to remain open so our students can complete all of their course. We want to protect staff and students from the risk of catching COVID-19 in our environment. A real risk is that people who are not showing symptoms do not realise that they have COVID-19 and pass it onto others who do then get sick. The testing regime, which has been determined by the NHS, Public Health and the Government, that we have implemented is an important part of the protective measures we have put in place. Whilst the College will not prevent any students from attending who have not been tested, we strongly recommend that students do participate in our testing. This is the same as any students and pupils in education, including university students, from across the country aged 11+.

4. *Will I be "forced" to come in for a test?*

Testing is voluntary but strongly encouraged as part of the programme, to help break transmission links by identifying those that may be carrying the virus unknowingly. Anyone attending at the test centres will be asked to confirm their consent, and can choose to withdraw their consent if they change their mind. The trained staff in the centres will gently ask students if they are happy to be tested up to twice, and if the student is still not certain, then the staff will accept that response. The student will be free to leave. No pressure will be applied, and the test centre staff will not spend any time trying to persuade students.

5. *If they have previously tested positive, they cannot be tested for 90 days, so what should they do?*

There is no reason why an individual who has previously had COVID or tested positive for COVID cannot be tested, even if it is within these 90 days. We are expected to invite all of our students to be tested. If you do experience a positive test as part of our testing regime, you will need to self-isolate before being allowed back into college. If you have self-isolated for the determined period, then even if your test result continues to be positive, we will allow you to return. There will be evidence that you have taken the necessary actions to isolate following the positive that we have on record.

Not being available for testing slot

6. *What happens if we can't make the date of our test?*

Please do your best to attend your appointment times. If you absolutely cannot attend that time, you can turn up at another time on the same day and we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait. The Government is expecting a certain number of days between each time you are tested and so it is not possible to change the day.

7. *My test clashes with Covid job – can I change the test date?*
Unfortunately, it is not possible to change the day, as the Government is expecting a certain number of days between each time you are tested. You can turn up at another time on the same day and we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait.
8. *Can I go on say Friday at the same time?*
Unfortunately, it is not possible to change the day, as the Government is expecting a certain number of days between each time you are tested. You can turn up at another time on the same day and we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait.
9. *My test is at the same time as an online lesson - can I change?*
It is not possible to change the day, but you can turn up at another time on the same day and we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait. Please prioritise your test over your lesson. Teaching staff have been made aware that we are trying to fit our students into the testing times and so will be lenient about any time you miss. We are inviting whole groups into be tested and so it is unlikely that you will be the only person affected by the impact.
10. *My test is on a day when I'm not due into college?*
The initial three test appointments you have been given may not be on your normal College day but we have had to organise the schedule in a way which helps to get these numbers through as quickly and efficiently as possible. Please do your best to attend your appointment times. If you absolutely cannot attend that time, please do not attempt to call us to re-arrange it. If you turn up at another time that day, we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait. The Government is expecting a certain number of days between each time you are tested and so it is not possible to change the day.
11. *I live in the same house as my sibling and we have different dates. Can it be easier to have them on the same day?*
Unfortunately, it is not possible to change the day, as the Government is expecting a certain number of days between each time you are tested. You can turn up at another time on the same day and we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait.
12. *My test is after college, which means I have to make another journey to college. Would it be possible to have the test during the college day?*
Unfortunately, it is not possible to change the day, as the Government is expecting a certain number of days between each time you are tested. You can turn up at another time on the same day and we will try to slot you in, although you will have a longer wait.
13. *Can we use home testing kits instead of attending for tests or will I be "forced" to come in?*
The Government have asked that all students have 3 tests in College first. Once the initial three tests have been completed on the College site, students will be issued with home testing kits and should use these to carry out 2 tests per week. Further details regarding home testing will be provided once the kits arrive in College.
14. *Can I go to a different test centre – i.e. nearer home?*
The Government has asked that all students have 3 tests at the College testing centre. So, unfortunately, you cannot use a different one closer to home.
15. *Can I go to a test centre near me instead of travelling to you?*

The Government has asked that all students have 3 tests at the College testing centre. So, unfortunately, you cannot use a different one closer to home.

16. *If my workplace provides tests, can I just use them instead?*

The Government has asked that all students have 3 tests at the College testing centre. So, unfortunately, you cannot use your workplace tests.

17. *I have to test myself twice a week already as I work at the hospital? Can I show my lateral flow test results from this rather than having more tests?*

The Government has asked that all students have 3 tests at the College testing centre. So, unfortunately, you cannot use your workplace tests.

18. *What happens if I haven't got the money to travel in just for a test.*

Please contact Student Support on 01473 382738 or support@suffolk.ac.uk who can discuss any options that may be available to you.

General

19. *I'm confused between Sports Centre and Goals. Are they both the same?*

They are the same building, located at the front of the College site, off Grimwade Street

20. *Where is the sports centre located?*

The Sports Centre is located at the front of the College site, off Grimwade Street. Goals is also located here.

21. *Do I have to do the test myself or does a staff member do it for me?*

You will need to carry out the test yourself. Unfortunately, staff will be unable to assist with swabbing during the test but they will guide you through the process. If you are anxious about the test, or unsure you will be able to carry it out independently, you are welcome to bring a parent or guardian with you to assist.

22. *Will I get help with test in College?*

Staff will not be able to assist with swabbing during the test, but they will guide you through the process. If you are anxious about the test, or unsure you will be able to carry it out independently, you are welcome to bring a parent or guardian with you to assist.

23. *Where could I get a consent form?*

An email was sent last week with a link to the consent form and can be found below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfcUEQBWfYzGq_TqGA3qdc5uiFYQ4kQYP7F3tDoV6Q4AHGemQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

If you are unable to complete in advance of your test, there will be consent forms available in the test centres for when you come in, but this may cause a delay. It is helpful if you can complete it before you come in.

24. *What do I do if my test is positive?*

You will be informed of a positive result within an hour of taking the test. The College will guide you through what happens next at this point. You will need to self-isolate and track and trace procedures will be implemented.

25. *If my course can be completed online, do I HAVE to attend face to face?*

The College asks all students to attend their face-to-face session as per Government guidelines on re-opening of education providers.