

To: All students (UG, PGT and PGR)

Date: Wednesday 25 November (12 noon)

Subject: COVID-19 update #8: Bookings open for non-symptomatic testing on campus

This message is being sent urgently to all students and we recognise that this may include some who have recently completed their studies. Please ignore this message if you are not a current University of Reading student.

Dear students,

Bookings are now open for our on-campus rapid COVID-19 testing for those who do **not** have symptoms, outlined in my [message last week](#). We hope that testing will provide you with extra reassurance heading into the Christmas break, particularly those of you who plan to travel.

Before booking a test, please read this email carefully so you know what to expect.

Where and when is the testing taking place?

This free, rapid testing service will be available from Tuesday 1 December to Friday 11 December in the Sports Hall on Whiteknights campus (marked 39 on [this map](#)):

- 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday
- 11am to 4pm on Saturday.

You must have a booking in order to take a test.

Who can book a test?

Testing is voluntary and the service is available to all undergraduate and postgraduate students, including PGR students and students currently on placements.

This testing is only for **those who are NOT displaying symptoms of COVID-19**. Please **DO NOT visit the testing centre in the Sports Hall if you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19** (a high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss/change of your sense of taste or smell). If you have symptoms, please book your test through the [national NHS testing system](#) and [let us know](#) so we can support you.

You can read the full eligibility criteria for the test on [Essentials](#), and information about how your data will be handled is set out in our [privacy notice](#).

How and when do I book?

We strongly recommend that you book **as soon as possible** for your preferred date and time.

You can book your test using our [online booking system](#) for:

- **a student rapid test** for students who do not have any accessibility requirements
- **an accessible or supported test** for students who may need extra assistance or space to take a test, or who need to request adjustments because of a disability.

If you plan to travel, the government advises that you do so within 24 hours of getting a negative test result. So you should plan your test around when you intend to leave. You should also be aware that if you test positive, you will need to remain in Reading to self-isolate for 10 days.

We suggest that you plan in a little extra time in case you face delays. For example, do not book your test for 10am, if you plan to leave at 11am. This may not allow you time to receive your result and take any necessary action.

What should I expect when I arrive?

The whole process – from arriving, to taking the test, to leaving – should take no more than 20 minutes, or 30 minutes if you have booked an accessible or supported appointment. Just follow these five simple steps.

Step 1 – Prepare for your appointment. You must bring:

- your Campus Card
- a face covering (make sure you are wearing one prior to entering the Sports Hall)
- a mobile phone (you will need to scan a QR code to register)
- your GP (doctor's) details to provide at registration (the name of the surgery you are registered with is sufficient – for example, the University Medical Practice)
- hand sanitiser if you have some.

You should not have to queue for long, but remember to dress warmly just in case.

Step 2 – Arrive at the Sports Hall. When you book, you will select a time slot for your test. Please arrive 10 minutes before your booking time and follow all signs and one-way systems directing you to the testing centre, observing social distancing requirements.

Step 3 – Register by scanning a QR code using your mobile phone. If you do not have a phone that can scan a QR code, an alternative means of registering will be provided. You will be given a test kit and someone will direct you to a testing booth.

Step 4 – Take your test. In the booth, you will use the test kit to take your own swab sample. There will be a staff member there to provide advice and guidance, and you can prepare by watching a [short NHS video](#) on how to do the test.

Step 5 – Leave your test kit for processing. You do not have to wait for your test result and you can leave as soon as you have handed over your test kit. You will receive your result by text message or email, as you selected when registering, typically in 30 to 60 minutes.

What happens after I have taken the test?

Your test result will be sent to you directly by the NHS Test and Trace system. This information will not be shared with the University.

There are three possible outcomes:

- **If you test positive:**
 - You will need to self-isolate in your term-time accommodation for ten days and let us know about your result by completing the [online positive test form](#). This helps us to support you during your self-isolation and work with your close contacts to ensure that they are not unintentionally spreading the virus.
 - It is also strongly recommended that you take a different kind of test called a PCR test through the main NHS testing system to confirm the positive result. When you complete the [online positive test form](#), we will help you arrange this PCR test through the testing centre in the Great Hall at our London Road campus.
- **If you test negative:**

- Best clinical practice recommends that you repeat the test three days later to confirm your negative result. This is because the amount of virus in your system early in your illness might be too low to show up. Only book this second test through [our booking system](#) after you receive a negative result.
- The government advises that you travel as soon as possible after your negative test result, or your second negative result if you choose to have another test.
- **If you test negative but you are identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive:**
 - The government advises that you can undertake your period of self-isolation either at your term-time address in Reading or at your home or holiday address, if you plan to travel. Try and travel by private transport if you can, and if you do need to take public transport, please follow the [government guidelines](#).

If you have questions about the testing, or any difficulties making a booking including for accessibility reasons, **please contact our COVID-19 support line on 0118 214 7813** from 9am to 5pm on weekdays and 11am to 4pm at weekends.

Best wishes,
Parveen

Professor Parveen Yaqoob (Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Chair of the Mass Testing Team