

New Covid-19 Testing Asymptomatic Testing Site at University Centre Sparsholt and Sparsholt College

University Centre Sparsholt and Sparsholt College is working with NHS Test & Trace to set up an on-campus asymptomatic testing site (ATS) of lateral flow tests (LFT) so that students without symptoms, who may be infectious but unaware, are able to get tested and self-isolate if they are or be reassured quickly if they are not. This Government backed asymptomatic testing site is to open in Westley Court, Sparsholt College to help protect people most at risk and aims to work towards returning life to as normal as possible. Testing of students and staff will begin on Sunday 3rd January 2021.

All Higher Education (HE) students are urged to get tested on their return to Sparsholt to help protect themselves and the wider student community.

On Sunday 3rd January 2021 testing will be available for residential HE students returning for the Spring term between 12.00 and 5.00pm.

Residential HE students will be allocated time slots between 12.00 and 5.00pm for returning to campus and on arrival will be directed to Sainsbury's car park. Students who are participating in testing will be guided to Westley Court where a team of trained staff will support them through the test process. After the test has been completed, students will be asked to wait, whether in their cars with family members, or in a designated waiting area. It is expected that the time from test to result will be no more than one hour.

HE residential students returning from a Tier 3 area of England should arrange to be Covid tested prior to departure from home. Information on arranging a test can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Any student testing positive should not travel to Sparsholt and must follow NHS Test and Trace guidelines by remaining at home for 10 days before returning to University Centre Sparsholt.

Residential students driving back to Sparsholt should only travel with members of their household or support bubble, and follow safer travel advice safety guidelines. On public transport it is important that travellers wear a face covering unless exempt, wash or sanitise hands regularly, use contactless payment and keep 2m distance where possible. (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>).

From Monday 4th January 2021 testing will be available for HE students who are not resident on campus, on the first day of face to face teaching. HE students (non-residential) who are participating in testing should present themselves at Westley Court prior to their first face to face teaching session where they will be supported through the testing process by trained staff. Testing will be held at Westley Court between 9.00 and 12.00pm. Students who travel in by car are encouraged to arrive at the test centre at 9.00am to enable HE students who travel in by campus transport to access the testing at 10.30. HE commuter students will be asked to wait in the designated waiting area for the result of the test before joining their face-to-face classroom session.

All students undertaking a test will need access to a smart phone to register with NHS Test and Trace once they have confirmed their intention to be tested at the Westley Court reception area. The result of the test will be notified directly to the student.

Any student receiving a positive test should immediately notify one of the test administrators who will provide further guidance at that time. They will also be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to track prior contacts to protect others from further transmission.

Students will be encouraged to get tested twice with a minimum of 3 days between tests to ensure that they are free of the virus. When you register for your first test you will be notified of the day that your second test is due. Should a student test positive they will receive a confirmatory PCR test and must self-isolate for 10 days, before resuming face to face teaching.

For Coronavirus updates and the latest information plus a video demonstration of how to take a Covid test sample please visit <https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/coronavirus-latest-ucs/>

Higher Education students can also find more information on returning to their studies and associated Covid testing provided by the Office for Students here:
<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/student-guide-to-coronavirus/returning-to-university-in-2021/>

We understand that this can be a worrying time for some of you returning to your studies, there are a range of resources on the Sparsholt Student Services page on Ledge which you may find helpful to support you at this time. We have also provided several FAQs to help answer questions you may have, accessed here: <https://www.sparsholt.ac.uk/coronavirus-latest-ucs/>

Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish you a safe and restful Christmas. We look forward to supporting you to continue your studies in the New Year.

Best wishes

Julie Milburn, Principal and CEO

Claire Beckett, College Nurse Practitioner

Sparsholt College Group (incorporating Sparsholt College, Andover College, University Centre Sparsholt & Sparsholt College Services)

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