



University Centre South Devon

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Dear students,

Yesterday the [Government announced the details of the further lifting of the national lockdown restrictions which apply to universities](#). I have also linked [a letter from the Minister for Universities](#) which we have been asked to circulate to our student community.

Along with all Higher Education providers, we had hoped that we would be able to welcome all remaining students back to our campuses for in-person delivery after Easter. However, this announcement stipulates that further return will not be permitted before 17th May at the earliest.

This will be very disappointing to many of you and we share this disappointment. We know how hard everyone in our community has worked to ensure we can keep each other and those around us safe throughout this academic year, and we know how desperately our students and staff want to be able to return to in-person delivery.

Please note that this announcement does not change any current arrangements for students who have already returned under the Government guidelines, as we have previously communicated. It does however mean that no further students will be eligible to return to in person delivery until after 17th May at the earliest.

If you have returned to in-person delivery, please read the section below on 'Covid 19 Testing'.

Accessing Facilities

It remains the case that our premises are open to you if you require additional support. You can also continue to use study spaces within the University Centre and other buildings as required.

The Government's decision as to whether further students will be able to return to in-person activities after 17th May will be based on the data, including on infection levels, testing rates and the uptake of vaccinations. It remains imperative that we all continue to follow the Government guidelines, abide by the COVID-19 hygiene measures, engage with the vaccination programme when we are invited to and continue to engage with regular COVID-19 testing.

If you do wish to access facilities, please read the section below on 'Covid 19 Testing'.

Summer Term

The Summer Term will still begin as planned from the 19th April (following your timetable).

The Government announcement states that, “students who have returned to higher education settings should not move back and forward between their permanent home and student home during term time unless they meet one of the exemptions”.

COVID-19 Testing

It remains vital that everyone who is undertaking in-person delivery (those on Practical Based programmes who have been asked to return) or using facilities on our campuses undertakes a Covid-19 test prior to returning after Easter and continue to test using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD).

We are providing lateral flow home test kits (LFD) for all students who require them. Alternatively, you can request these directly from [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

If you wish to use a College issued LFD these can be collected from the University Centre Faculty Office between the following times:

Date	Day	Morning time	Afternoon time
15 th April	Thursday	1000-1200hrs	1400-1600hrs
19 th April	Monday	1000-1200hrs	1400-1600hrs
20 th April	Tuesday	1000-1200hrs	1400-1600hrs
21 st April	Wednesday	1000-1200hrs	1400-1600hrs
22 nd April	Thursday	1000-1200hrs	1400-1600hrs
23 rd April	Friday	1000-1200hrs	1400-1600hrs

In all cases we ask that students undertake a test prior to attending the College, including the use of facilities.

- Typically we would ask that students test twice a week, on Sunday and Thursday, but in the first instance this should be the day before your return to in-person delivery
- Students must report their result to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the test is completed, either online or by telephone as per the instructions in the booklet provided with the home test kit. Students should also share their result, either positive, negative, or VOID with the College to help with contact tracing using the link [HERE](#).

My result was negative. Do I need to report it?

Yes, you must report any result you get whether it is negative, positive or even VOID. All the test kits have unique IDs and all of them need to be accounted for. Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend College.

What do I do if I test positive?

If you have a positive LFD test result, you will need to self-isolate in line with the stay-at home guidance. You will also need to arrange a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to confirm the result.

What if I have had COVID-19 recently?

If you have recently (within 90 days) tested positive for COVID-19, you are likely to have developed some immunity.

If you had a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test in the last 90 days through NHS Test and Trace and been recorded as a positive case on the national system, you **do not** need to conduct the LFD test within that time period if you are asymptomatic. You are still required to self-isolate if you are identified as a close contact of a positive case, even if this is within the 90 day window.

How long are we home testing for?

Test kits provided to students will last for 3 ½ weeks. Arrangements for the collection of replacement kits will be shared shortly. Students need to test for the foreseeable future to ensure the covid-security of our campus. Once you are able to stop testing for the virus, we will let you know.

I hope you are enjoying some rest and relaxation over the Easter break and I wish you the very best as you prepare for any forthcoming assessments.

Best wishes,
Alastair

Alastair Wilson
Head of Higher Education and Academic Registrar

