

Returning to Landmarks Specialist College

September 2021

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts from a setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. You may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

You're not required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- you're fully vaccinated
- you're below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you've taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. If you're not legally required to self-isolate, you will be provided with advice on testing and given guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19. Even if you do not have symptoms, you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible. If you are symptomatic you should stay at home.

At all sites we will continue to maintain Lateral Flow Device testing facilities and they will be available to anyone who wishes to use them.

Stocks of home testing kits will be readily available with both staff and learners encouraged to use them.

Control measures

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning should now be regular practice. We will continue to ensure that staff and learners clean their hands regularly. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important.

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Specific PPE beyond what is normally needed is not required although if learners, staff, or visitors wish to wear additional PPE it is perfectly acceptable.

2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes using standard products such as detergents

We will continue to maintain an enhanced cleaning schedule. This includes regular cleaning of areas and equipment (for example twice per day), with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces.

3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated

All sites will be ventilated as much as possible to facilitate a comfortable teaching environment.

Mechanical systems will be adjusted to full fresh air.

Opening external windows can improve natural ventilation, and in addition, opening internal doors can also assist with creating a throughput of air. If necessary external opening doors may also be used (if they are not fire doors and where safe to do so).

We will endeavour to balance the need for increased ventilation while maintaining a comfortable temperature.

4. Follow Public Health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19

When an individual develops COVID-19 symptoms or has a positive test

Students, staff and learners should follow public health advice on when to self-isolate. They should not come into college if they have symptoms or other reasons requiring them to stay at home due to the risk of them passing on COVID-19 (for example, they are required to quarantine or have a positive test).

If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms whilst at college, however mild, they will be sent home and should follow public health advice.

For everyone with symptoms, they should avoid using public transport and, wherever possible, be collected by a member of their family or household.

If a learner or staff member is awaiting collection, they should be left in a room on their own if possible and safe to do so. A window should be opened for fresh air ventilation if possible.

Appropriate PPE should also be used if close contact is necessary and any rooms they use should be cleaned after they have left. The household (including any siblings) must follow PHE advice.

Asymptomatic testing

Testing remains important in reducing the risk of transmission of infection within settings. That is why, whilst some measures are relaxed, others will remain, and if necessary, in response to the latest epidemiological data, we all need to be prepared to step measures up or down in future depending on local circumstances.

Over the summer, staff and students should continue to test regularly if they are attending settings that remain open, such as holiday club. We have testing kits available for twice weekly asymptomatic testing for learners and staff over the summer period if they are attending college settings.

Regular testing will then pause in settings over the summer if they are closed. However, testing will still be widely available over the summer and kits can be collected either from your local pharmacy or ordered online.

As learners will potentially mix with lots of other people during the summer holidays, they will be encouraged to take home lateral flow tests twice a week between 3 and 5 days apart when they return.

Learners and staff will be encouraged to test twice weekly at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

We will retain small Asymptomatic Test Site (ATS) on-site until further notice so we can offer testing to students who are unable to test themselves at home.

Confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests

Staff or students who receive a positive LFD test result should self-isolate in line with the stay-at-home guidance. They will also need to get a PCR test to check if they have COVID-19.

Whilst awaiting the PCR result, the individual should self-isolate.

If the PCR test is taken within 2 days of the positive LFD test, and is negative, it overrides the LFD test result and the learner can return to their setting, if they do not have COVID-19 symptoms.

Those with a negative LFD test result can continue to attend college.

Admitting students and staff back to the setting

In most cases, parents and carers will agree that a learner with symptoms should not attend the setting, given the potential risk to others. If a parent or carer insists on a student attending college, we may take the decision to refuse the learner to protect other learners and staff from possible infection with COVID-19.