

UoC Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening Programme: Lent Term Week 1 (18th – 24th January 2021)

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Participation

All 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge and 6 Houses of the Cambridge Theological Federation participated in the programme.

Students screened

Because of national restrictions, fewer students are present in Cambridge than in Michaelmas Term. However, the programme has now been extended to include many students living in private accommodation.

All participating students present in Cambridge were invited to participate in weekly pooled sample collection, provided they did not meet pre-determined exclusion criteria.

1,560 pooled samples were received and processed at the testing facility. Of these, **8** were reported as “void” (for a variety of reasons, including inappropriate packaging and leaking samples).

3,569 students contributed to pooled sample collection, including **3,543** students with valid results.

Results

The final pooled screening test results were:

Result	Number	%
Positive	7	0.5%
Negative	1,545	99.5%
Total	1,552	100%

Members of all **7** positive pools were invited for individual confirmatory tests. As of Monday 25th January, all students had been re-tested. Of the positive pools:

- **4** pools were true positives (i.e. included at least 1 student confirmed to be positive on individual testing). **4** students had a positive confirmatory individual confirmatory test from across these pools.
- **3** pools were operational false positives (i.e. all individual confirmatory tests were negative, following pooled screening test results which were positive at the limit of detection).
- **0** pools have outstanding results.

The operational false positive rate for all pooled screening tests to date has been approximately **1 in 400**.

Additionally, **27** students were tested individually on their return to Cambridge, and did not participate in pooled sample collection. **0** students were positive for SARS-CoV-2.

Based on these data, we estimate that the prevalence of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection amongst students screened last week was approximately **1 in 900** students (**0.1%**).

Summary for all students

Week	No. students screened	No. confirmed positive cases	Prevalence*
18 th -24 th Jan	3,570	4	0.1%

*asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection amongst screened students