

UoC Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening Programme: Week 8 (23rd – 29th November 2020)

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Participation

All 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge, and 4 Houses of the Cambridge Theological Federation, participated in the programme. A summary of participation across the University is shown in this table:

Decision	Number	%
Consented	12,498	81.6%
Declined	535	3.5%
Undecided	2,276	14.9%
Total Eligible	15,309	100%

Students screened

This week, **all** consenting students from each testing pool, who did not meet exclusion criteria for the programme (such as those who have recently testing positive or are not in residence in their College accommodation) were requested to contribute swabs. Based on data from electronic student returns, the mean number of students who actually contributed swabs was **4.9** per testing pool.

From a total of **2,256** testing pools across the University, **1,927 (85.4%)** samples were received and processed at the testing facility. Of these, **31** were reported as “void” (for a variety of reasons, including inappropriate packaging and leaking samples).

Combined with the student returns data, we estimate that **9,481** students contributed swabs, including **9,329** students with valid results.

Results

The final pool results were:

Result	Number	%
Positive	7	0.4%
Negative	1,889	98.7%
Total	1,896	100%

Members of all **7** positive pools were invited for individual confirmatory tests. As of Sunday 29th November, all students apart from one have been re-tested. Of the positive pools:

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

Based on these data we estimate that the prevalence of asymptomatic COVID-19 in students living in College accommodation this week was **1 in 3,110 students (0.03%)**.

The false positive rate for all pooled screening tests to date has been **1 in 427 (0.2%)**.

Summary

Week	No. students screened	No. confirmed positive cases	Prevalence*
5 th – 11 th October	3,463	12	0.3%
12 th – 18 th October	3,675	34	0.9%
19 th – 25 th October	4,660	39	0.8%
26 th Oct – 1 st Nov	5,494	38	0.7%
2 nd – 8 th Nov	4,583	23	0.5%
9 th – 15 th Nov	5,339	80	1.5%
16 th – 22 nd Nov	4,138	27	0.7%
23rd – 28th Nov	9,329	3	0.03%

*asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection