

UoC Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening Programme: 22nd –28th Nov 2021

Report author – Dr Isobel Ramsay, Clinical Lead. Report prepared – 29/11/ 2021. This report does not include results from lateral flow tests (LFTs), or from students or staff tested by PCR using the NHS or University symptomatic testing pathway.

Participation

All 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge and 4 Houses of the Cambridge Theological Federation participated in the screening programme. We estimate that there are currently **16150** students resident in College accommodation, of whom **84%** have agreed to take part.

This week, participating students from **50%** of testing pools were invited to contribute swabs, including students resident in either College **or** private accommodation.

Some students participating in the programme who did not contribute swabs may not have been present in Cambridge, have had COVID-19 in the preceding 90 days, or be participating in NHS screening as a clinical medical student. In addition, some students may have contributed swabs, but not registered their tests.

Students screened

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

In total, **1834** students contributed swabs to pooled sample collection and registered their tests, including **1833** students with valid results.

Results

The final pooled screening test results were:

Result	Number of pools	Percentage
Positive	5	0.70%
Negative	713	99.30%
Total	718	100.00%

Members of the **5** positive pool were invited for individual confirmatory tests. Of the positive pools:

- **5** pools were true positives (i.e. included at least 1 student confirmed to be positive on individual confirmatory testing). **5** students from these pools had a positive individual confirmatory test.
- **0** pools were operational false positives (i.e. all individual confirmatory tests were negative, following a positive pooled screening test result).

Additionally, **70** asymptomatic students were screened individually (individual tests may include: "Return to Cambridge" tests, for students arriving in Cambridge; "Pre-departure" tests, for students leaving Cambridge; confirmatory PCR tests, following positive LFTs; "Test to check" tests, for

students already self-isolating as contacts; and tests for enhanced contact tracing). Altogether, **3** students tested positive for SARS-CoV-2.

Summary for all students

Week	No. students screened†	No. confirmed positive cases	Prevalence*
27th Sept – 3rd Oct	1740	1	0.06%
4th – 10th Oct	4622	1	0.02%
11th – 17th Oct	5122	16	0.31%
18th – 24th Oct	5208	8	0.15%
25th – 31st Oct	4947	1	0.02%
1st – 7th Nov	4798	5	0.10%
8th – 14th Nov	4559	8	0.18%
15th – 21st Nov	2304††	5	0.22%
22nd – 28th Nov	1903††	8	0.42%

†† During this week, participating students from **50%** of testing pools were invited to contribute swabs.

† Because of incomplete test registration, we estimate (based on 3 “swab-counting” exercises in October and November 2021) that the actual number of students screened is approximately 25-40% greater than stated (approximately 5700-7000 in the weeks assessed).

*Prevalence of asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection amongst screened students. Please note that, because students screened are not a representative sample, the overall prevalence in all students may be lower or higher than this estimate.