

## Rapid Antigen Testing – Information for Students

January 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

As a member of the Higher Education College's Association (HECA), SNMCI was one of the 12 colleges approved as part of a **once-off initiative** to stimulate the use of antigen tests by students. The funding allocation is to provide a **small number of antigen tests to HECA students** in the current academic year.

Rapid antigen testing is a simple self-test with results available in 15-20mins, which provides another layer of protection to our on-going health and safety measures.

- SNMCI will be supplying rapid antigen testing kits to all students **from Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January.**
- Students will need to collect and sign for kits.

### FAQ's

#### WHERE AND WHEN CAN I GET THE RAT KITS?

- Test kits can be obtained from the COVID Officer at Reception in Century Court Dun Laoghaire, Dublin. .
- Test kits can be obtained from the Cork Coordinator at 52, The Mall Cork City.

Please do not crowd the reception desk/s while collecting the kits in Century Court. The Covid Officer is there throughout the day

#### HOW MANY CAN I OBTAIN?

This scheme is being funded by the Government who have provided us with a **finite supply of test kits.** **Please use the tests appropriately and for your own use only.**

The College proposes the following roll out in the interest **of fairness and accessibility for all.**

- In the first instance you will be provided with 3 x kits (week of 29<sup>th</sup> Jan-Feb 4<sup>th</sup>).
- In the following weeks there will be 2 further issues of 3x kits around placement time and before the Easter break. Three kits will allow you to do the recommended testing should you be notified as a close contact.
- Students will be notified when kits are available.

Between these dates the remaining kits will be available for student use, as needed, while in the College, e.g., if a student is notified as a close contact while in College. (See Jan 2022 guidelines).

Following this sharing of kits, any surplus will be distributed freely to students and will be available to those students attending in-house exams and presentations during May.

We consider this to be a fair use of the kits for all students.

#### HOW SHOULD I USE THEM?

See HSE website <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> and College Guidelines (Jan 2022)

It can take time for the virus to show up in your system if you are exposed.

**The recommended approach is to take 1 test and repeat 3 days later.**

Antigen testing is more accurate if you leave a few days between each test.

### HOW DO I CARRY OUT A RAPID ANTIGEN TEST?

- Follow the instructions contained within the package.
- See the short video for guidance <https://youtu.be/RssRcBdl7Qg>
- Check the HSE website for further instructions

### WHAT IF I AM A CLOSE CONTACT OF A POSITIVE COVID CASE?

Current advice on what to do if you have been identified as a close contact of Covid case can be found on <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/>.

There are different rules depending **on your vaccination status** so please read the advice closely and follow the guidance that is relevant to your situation.

See College Guidelines (Jan 2022) as sent to all students, posted on Moodle and on website.

### WHAT IF I HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19?

If you have symptoms of Covid 19 then you should immediately self-isolate and consult <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> for the he most current advice from the HSE and follow the guidance that is relevant to your situation.

See College Guidelines (Jan 2022) as sent to all students, posted on Moodle and on website.

### WHAT DO I DO IF MY TEST IS POSITIVE?

If you antigen test is positive you will need to **self-isolate** for a period of time and **report your test result online** to the HSE listing your close contacts.

See College Guidelines (Jan 2022) as sent to all students, posted on Moodle and on website.

If you test positive following an antigen test (or indeed after a PCR test) please **report your diagnosis to your Programme Director who will advise re how to continue with your studies.**

### CAN I USE THE TEST KITS SUPPLIED BY SNMCI WHILST I AWAIT DELIVERY OF TEST KITS FROM THE HSE IF I HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO SELF-TEST BY THE HSE?

Yes. If you have been advised to engage in a sequence of self-testing by the HSE then you can use the kits supplied by SNMCI to start that process immediately whilst you await delivery of your test kits from the HSE.