

Ethical framework for asymptomatic COVID-19 testing

Students in higher education institutions



Design and operation of the programme

Assess if a testing programme is the right choice and whether you can deliver all aspects of it. Make sure that public health and legal duties will be met.



Goals of the programme

Identify the programme goals, explain why they were chosen, tell students about them, and keep them under review.



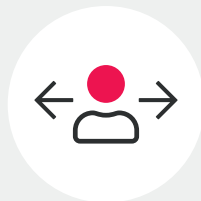
Properties of the test

Assess the available testing options, considering current evidence and guidance. Acknowledge uncertainty and take action to address risks associated with the chosen test.



Enabling isolation

Provide suitable support – practical, psychological, social and educational – for students who test positive.



Choices regarding participation

Generally, favour the least intrusive approach to individual choice about participation.



Benefits, harms, and opportunity costs

Assess possible benefits, costs, risks and harms and be prepared to explain decisions.



Responsibilities

Clarify the responsibilities for both institutions and students if shared goals are to be achieved.



Privacy, confidentiality and data protection

Ensure information governance systems meet data protection and confidentiality requirements. Be clear who is informed about test results and why.



Communication

Make clear communication with students and staff a priority, and put feedback and response mechanisms in place.