

Checklist

Ethical framework for asymptomatic COVID-19 testing Students in higher education institutions

1. Design and operation of the programme



- Is a testing programme the right choice for your institution?
- Have you assessed whether you can reasonably deliver all required aspects of the programme?
- Have you established an appropriate governance structure?
- Have you planned for a range of scenarios and put contingencies in place?

2. Goals of the programme



- Programme goals: what are they and why have you chosen them?
- Have you communicated them to students, staff and relevant stakeholders?
- How will you review whether they are being achieved?

3. Properties of the test



- Have you made a full assessment of the available testing options?
- Are you aware of and considered the most recent evidence surrounding testing technologies, and the most recent official guidance?
- Have you considered the likelihood of false negatives and false positives, and taken any steps to mitigate the associated harms?

4. Enabling isolation



- How will you support students to isolate effectively: practically, psychologically, socially and educationally?
- Have you ensured that students who test positive are fully aware of the requirement to isolate, and what support is available to them?

5. Choices regarding participation



How have you come to a decision about individual choice about participation, bearing in mind the need to use the least intrusive approach possible, proportionate to achieving programme goals given current conditions and evidence?



6. Benefits, harms, and opportunity costs



Have you made assessment of the possible benefits, costs, risks and harms of the programme?



Do you feel able to give an account of the reasonableness of the decision-making process and decisions made?



7. Responsibilities between students and institutions



What are your responsibilities as an institution, given you have chosen to run a programme?



What are your expectations of students, and do they emphasise shared goals and collective benefit?



8. Privacy, confidentiality and data-sharing



Do your systems for information governance meet data protection and confidentiality requirements?



Have you made clear who will be informed of a positive test result, including public health authorities, and what contact tracing mechanisms will be activated?



Are you aware of and compliant with relevant legal and ethical requirements for any use of data for research purposes?



9. Communication



Do you have a communications strategy in place to ensure effective and accessible communication?



Is there a dedicated channel for participants to provide feedback and to raise concerns about the programme?



Have you told participants it is available and how to access it, and ensured responses will be given?

