

UoC Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening Programme: Week 9 (30th November – 6th December 2020)

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Participation

All 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge, and 6 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	12,544	81.9%
Declined	539	3.5%
Undecided	2,227	14.5%
Total Eligible	15,310	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 **4.8** per testing pool.

From a total of **2,256** testing pools across College accommodation, **1,953 (86.6%)** samples were received and processed at the testing facility. Of these, **16** were reported as “void” (for a variety of reasons, including inappropriate packaging and leaking samples).

Combined with the student returns data, we estimate that **9,453** students contributed swabs, including **9,376** students with valid results.

Results

The final pool results were:

Result	Number	%
Positive	10	0.5%
Negative	1,927	99.5%
Total	1,937	100%

Members of all **10** positive pools were invited for individual confirmatory tests. As of Sunday 6th December, all students have been re-tested. Of the positive pools:

- **0** pools were true positives (i.e. included at least 1 student confirmed to be positive on individual testing).
- **10** 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)
- **0** pools have outstanding results

Based on these data, we did not detect any new cases of asymptomatic COVID-19 amongst 9,376 students living in College accommodation screened this week.

The false positive rate for all pooled screening tests to date has been **1 in 373 (0.3%)**.

Summary for students living in College accommodation

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%
23 rd – 28 th Nov	9,329	3	0.03%
29th Nov – 6th Dec	9,376	0	-

*asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection among screened students

Students Living in Private Accommodation

This week, the programme was extended to students living in private accommodation (i.e. that not owned or maintained by their College). 930 students from all 31 Colleges of the University of Cambridge registered for to participate in the programme.

Students screened

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 **2.8** per testing pool.

From a total of **315** testing pools, **267 (84.8%)** samples were received and processed at the testing facility. Of these, **4** were reported as “void” (due to leaking samples).

Combined with the student returns data, we estimate that **756** students contributed swabs, including **745** students with valid results.

Results

The final pool results were:

Result	Number	%
Positive	1	0.4%
Negative	262	99.6%
Total	263	100%

Members of the **1** positive pool were invited for individual confirmatory tests. As of Sunday 6th December, all students have been re-tested. This **1** pool was a false positives (i.e. all individual confirmatory tests were negative, following pooled screening test results which were positive at the limit of detection)

Based on these data, we did not detect any new cases of asymptomatic COVID-19 amongst 745 students living in private accommodation screened this week.