

UoC Asymptomatic COVID-19 Screening Programme: Week 6 (9th – 15th November 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 the table below:

Decision	Number	%
Consented	12,350	80.6%
Declined	461	3.0%
Undecided	2,512	16.4%
Total Eligible	15,323	100%

Students screened

This week, **half** of the students from each testing pool were requested to contribute swabs. Based on data from electronic student returns, the mean number of students who actually contributed swabs was **2.9** per testing pool.

From a total of **2,255** testing pools across the University, **1,876** (83.2%) 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 **5,385** students contributed swabs, including **5,339** students with valid results.

Results

The final pool results were:

Result	Number	%
Positive	67	3.6%
Negative	1,793	96.4%
Total	1,860	100%

Members of all **67** positive pools were invited for individual confirmatory tests. As of Sunday 15th November, all students have been re-tested. Of the positive pools:

- **59** pools were true positives (i.e. they included at least 1 student confirmed to be positive on individual testing). **80** students had a positive confirmatory individual result across these pools.
- **7** 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)
- **1** pool has outstanding results

Based on these data we estimate that the prevalence of asymptomatic COVID-19 in students living in College accommodation this week was **1 in 67** students (**1.5%**).

The false positive rate for all pooled screening tests to date has been **1 in 419** (**0.2%**).

Summary

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%
9th – 15th Nov	5,339	80	1.5%

*asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection