

Dear Colleagues,

A number of updates have been made to public health guidelines relating to COVID 19: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> and <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3361b-public-health-updates/> in particular relating to close contacts and testing.

If you are a close contact (of a person that tested positive for COVID-19 or are concerned that you may have come in contact with COVID-19, you should follow the latest public health guidelines [Close contacts - HSE.ie](#) .

- **For staff 39 years and under**, if your antigen test is positive **do not come on campus** and ensure you follow all HSE advice. You do not need to do another antigen test and do not need to book a PCR test. Staff should report their positive diagnosis to hr@dkit.ie with a copy of the Antigen test and the upload to the HSE website. <https://antigentesting.hse.ie/> indicating the last date you were on campus.
- **For staff 40 years and over**, if your antigen test is positive you will be required to have a PCR test. **Do not come on campus** and ensure you follow all HSE advice. Report your positive diagnosis to hr@dkit.ie including your date of diagnosis with a copy of your test results and the last date you were on campus.
- **If you are a close contact** and your antigen test results are negative you must continue to wear a medical or respirator face mask if you have to be around other people for 10 days since you last had contact with the person who tested positive, or were told you were a close contact by the HSE. Please see link: <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/preventing-the-spread/when-to-wear-face-covering/> which provides further information on medical masks and respirator masks.
- Please note if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, you need to self-isolate (stay in your room) right away, no matter what type of test you get.

The Institute is providing each staff member with 5 antigen tests (one box) in the coming days to support them in the event that they have difficulty accessing tests. These tests are **NOT** intended to replace those provided by the HSE in the event of a close contact. Staff should note that antigen testing is more accurate if you leave a few days between each test as it can take time for the virus to show up in your system after you are exposed.

Even if you do antigen tests regularly, follow the public health advice on how to protect yourself and others. The link to HSE site re COVID-19 is <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/covid19/> .

Please Note: All staff will be required to sign for the receipt of their Institute Antigen Tests in their respective School/Function/Centre Offices.